The Sporting News

SPORTS '90

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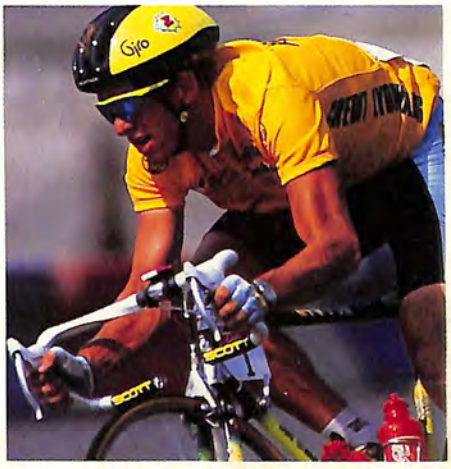
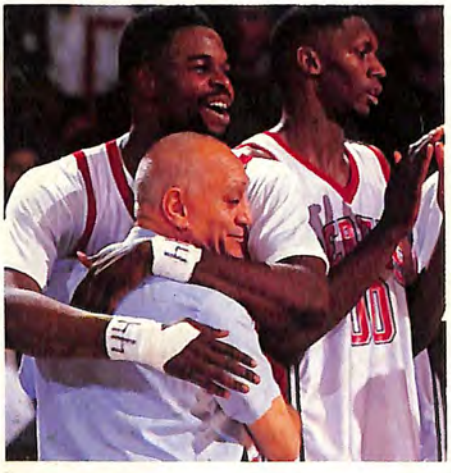
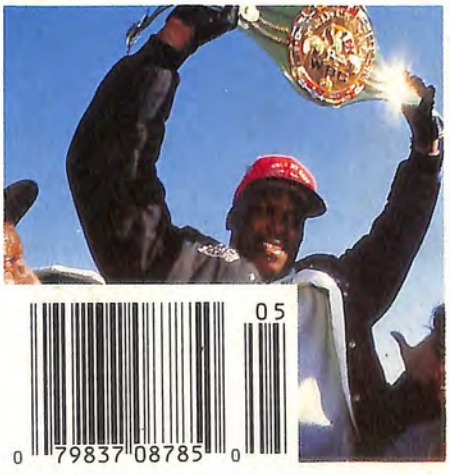
The 1989 college football season through the 1990 World Series. A candid pictorial look at the past year in sports.







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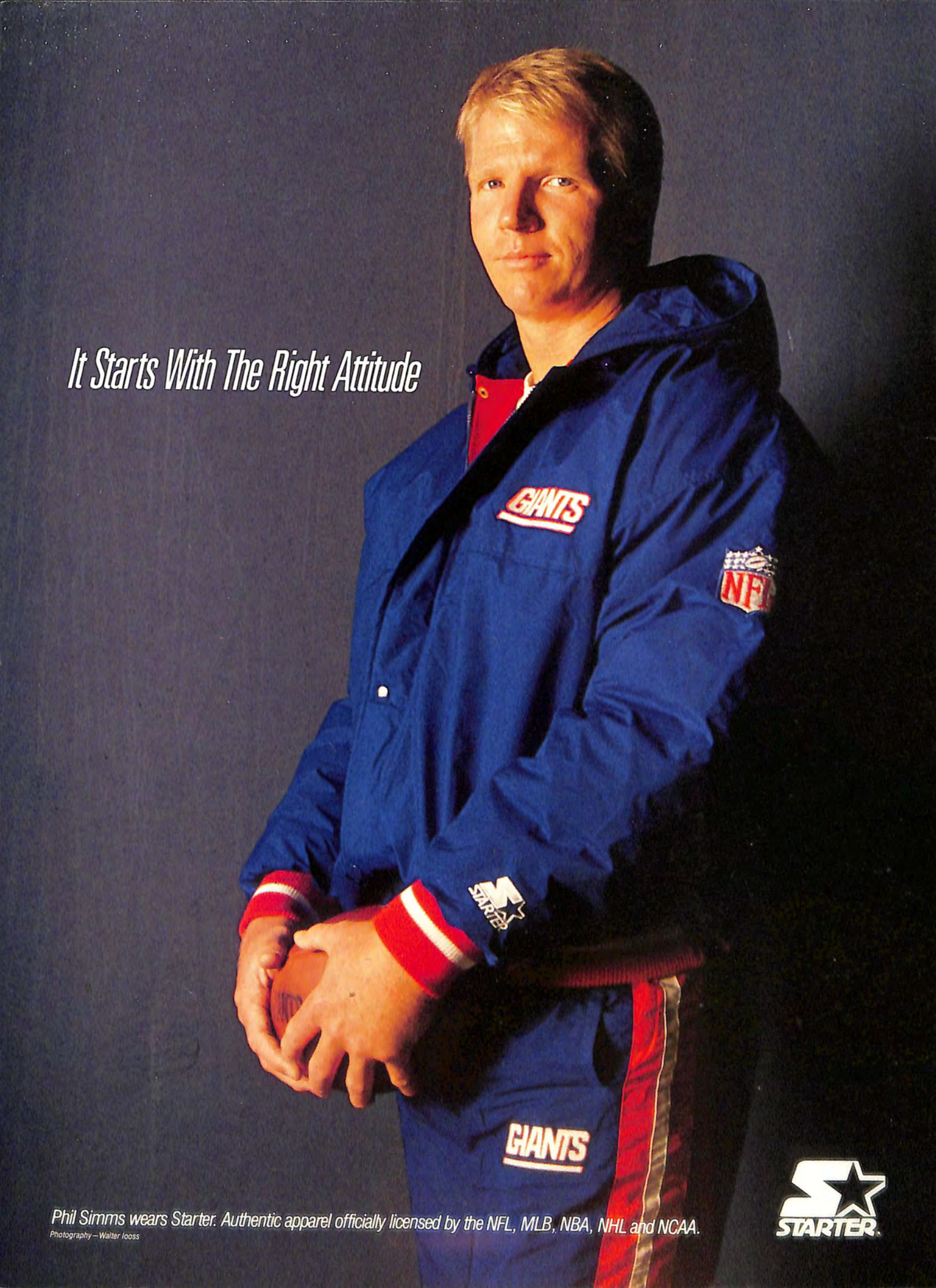
The Sporting News Sports '90 Yearbook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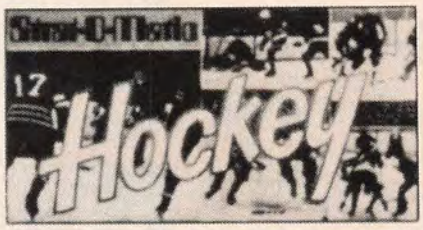

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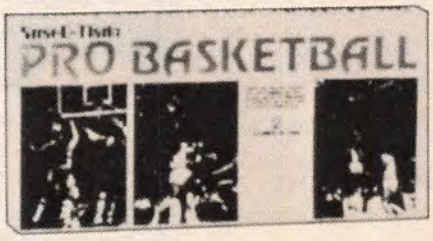

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SPORTS '90

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On the cover: Top left—Jose Rijo helped the Cincinnati Reds pitch a stunning sweep of the Oakland A's in the World Series (Ron Vesely); Middle left—Joe Montana passes the 49ers to their second consecutive Super Bowl victory (Tom DiPace); Bottom left—Columbus, O., welcomes home new heavyweight champ James (Buster) Douglas (Mike Williams/Allsport USA); Middle center—UNLV captures the national basketball championship (Rich Clarkson/Allsport USA); Middle bottom—Miami downs Notre Dame en route to winning the national title (Bob Rosato); Top right—Greg LeMond pedals to his second straight Tour de France victory (Vandystadt/Allsport France); Middle right—Bill Ranford back stops Edmonton to the Stanley Cup (Paul J. Bereswill); Bottom right—Isiah Thomas (left) and Dennis Rodman proclaim Detroit's back-to-back NBA championships (Nathaniel Butler).

BOB STRAUS

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Chicago White Sox's Ozzie Guillen

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Champions do it

By JOE GERGEN
Newsday

It took an ill-spoken baseball manager, a man with virtually no formal education, to articulate the enduring challenge of sports. On a soft summer evening in Brooklyn many years ago, Charlie Dressen witnessed a spectacular catch by a young Giants outfielder named Willie Mays and offered nary a blink. "I'd like," he said, "to see him do it again."

So would we all. For then, of course, we'd know if we had found a true champion. The great athletes, the great teams, do what is necessary on a consistent basis. They find a way to win more than once. To achieve a title is admirable, but to do it again is worthy of special recognition.

The first year of the new decade had its share of tragedies, controversies, upsets and revelations. A major college basketball figure collapsed on the court and died shortly thereafter. A certified baseball hero walked through the gates of a federal prison while the principal owner of the most celebrated professional franchise in America was barred from his office. A seemingly unbeatable fighter took the 10-count on a canvas in Japan. Tennis was energized by the arrival of some new kids on the block. Salaries, fueled largely by lucrative television contracts, continued to defy gravity and the economic downturn.

But none of that marked 1990 as extraordinary. What set the year apart, what will be best remembered, were the successful quests for consecutive championships. From San Francisco to Auburn Hills to Paris, the cry of '90 in sports was "repeat."

In fact, the San Francisco 49ers set out to do even better shortly after annihilating the Denver Broncos in New Orleans for their second consecutive Super Bowl championship and their fourth in nine years. They vowed to "threepeat," an unprecedented accomplishment even for the Pittsburgh dynasty of the 1970s. The same opportunity awaited the Detroit Pistons after they managed to place themselves in the exalted company of the Boston Celtics and the Minneapolis/Los Angeles Lakers, the only other franchises in National Basketball Association history to secure back-to-back titles. Even in Paris, where an American cyclist named Greg LeMond wheeled down the Champs Elysees in the yellow jersey to win his second Tour de France in as many years, the theme of repetition was embraced.

The failure of other such attempts provided drama as well. The Oakland Athletics rolled to their third consecutive American League pennant, but talk of a baseball dynasty ended abruptly when the A's were humiliated in the World Series by the Cincinnati Reds, who swept the first four games. The Calgary Flames, having assumed the mantle of National Hockey League supremacy from Edmonton, yielded it back to the Oilers in what has become an Alberta monopoly of four years' standing. Notre Dame's argument that it should have been awarded a second consecutive national championship by college football pollsters fell on deaf ears as the result of one decisive loss to a Miami team beaten by intrastate rival Florida State. And UNLV appeared to have sufficient manpower to success-

1

JOHN McDONOUGH

Bill Laimbeer (1), Detroit's chief Bad Boy, helped the Pistons join the brigade of repeat champions in 1990. The Pistons downed Portland in five games in the 1990 NBA Finals and joined the Celtics and Lakers as the only National Basketball Association franchises to capture back-to-back titles.

National Football League fans got more of the same in 1990, too. The San Francisco 49ers cemented their second straight Super Bowl triumph (and their fourth in nine years) by steamrolling the Denver Broncos. The 49ers vowed to "threepeat" following their convincing victory, while Denver quarterback John Elway (2) grimaced at the thought of receiving his third silver medal.

again in 1990

fully defend its college basketball title until the NCAA, which hands out the trophies, banned the Rebels from the 1991 tournament for past indiscretions by Coach Jerry Tarkanian.

In handing frequent bridesmaid Duke the most resounding defeat in the history of the championship game (103-73) and providing Tark the Shark with his first national championship, UNLV capped an emotionally draining month for college basketball. Eleven days before the start of the national tournament, an immensely talented forward from Loyola Marymount suffered a fatal seizure on his home court. His teammates dedicated their appearance in the national tournament to the memory of Hank Gathers.

And what a remarkable run they had before falling to UNLV in the West Regional final. Along the way the Lions crushed defending champion Michigan and briefly entertained the notion of qualifying for their first Final Four. But the Runnin' Rebels had an edge in talent and a mission of their own. "We want to win the championship bad," junior forward Larry Johnson said, "so that the NCAA guys will have to stare at that trophy on Coach's desk while they ask all those questions during the next investigation."

In the title game, the Rebels put on a show so stunning that it rose above the hype generated by a surprising announcement the night before: Brent Musburger, the longtime voice of CBS Sports, was being fired. Musburger broadcast the title game, his last CBS assignment, without pointed reference to his plight and later joined ABC.

The one-sided nature of the contest mirrored the 55-10 demolition job quarterback Joe Montana and the 49ers inflicted on the Broncos, whose collection of silver medals equaled that of Duke. Indeed, it was appropriate that the Rebels posted their record-setting victory at Denver's McNichols Arena, in the shadow of the Broncos' Mile High Stadium.

Nor were the Pistons hard pressed to overcome Portland in the NBA Finals. Led by point guard Isiah Thomas, the Pistons won the best-of-seven series in five games, including a three-game sweep on the Trail Blazers' home court. Their path to a second championship was smoothed by the unexpected demise of the Lakers and Celtics in the early rounds of the playoffs. It marked the first time in 11 years that neither Los Angeles nor Boston had participated in the championship series.

Oakland's advance to the World Series was similarly uneventful. The A's, led by pitchers Dave Stewart, Bob Welch and Dennis Eckersley, recorded the most victories in baseball for the third consecutive season, matching a feat last accomplished by the 1969-71 Baltimore Orioles. And they continued their domination of the A.L. Championship Series, sweeping the Boston Red Sox for the second time in three years. But that dominance merely set up one of the year's greatest upsets. The Reds led the National League West race from wire to wire but played sub-.500 ball the last four months of the season. Even if the Reds could beat Pittsburgh for the N.L. pennant, few observers gave them much hope of knocking off Oakland. But after defeating the Pirates in six

Continued

2

DAMIAN STROHMEYER/ALLSPORT USA

games, the Reds needed only four to dispense with the A's and win their first world championship since 1976.

A World Series upset was a fitting conclusion to a season that had been tilted in the wrong direction from the start by a spring-training lockout. With club owners and players unable to settle on a new collective bargaining agreement and no hope of an accord in sight, the owners locked the doors on spring camps in mid-February. The lockout dragged on until March 18, when a contract agreement was reached and an abbreviated spring-training schedule commenced. The first week of the regular season, however, was lost. To avoid having less than a full 162-game schedule, the first week's games were rescheduled for open dates during the season and early October, thus delaying the start of the playoffs.

Two notable baseball figures who no longer could watch postseason action from the best seats in the house were George Steinbrenner and Pete Rose. Commissioner Fay Vincent ejected Steinbrenner from the Yankees' executive suite for paying a gambler $40,000 to uncover dirt on Dave Winfield, a Yankee outfielder who had been butting heads with the club owner for years. And Rose, already banished from baseball, had to watch his beloved Reds on TV with his fellow inmates at a federal prison in Marion, Ill. Rose was sentenced to five months in jail after pleading guilty to filing false income tax returns. Thus did Number 14, the man who surpassed Ty Cobb as the leader in career base hits, adopt a new number not found on any scorecard—01832061.

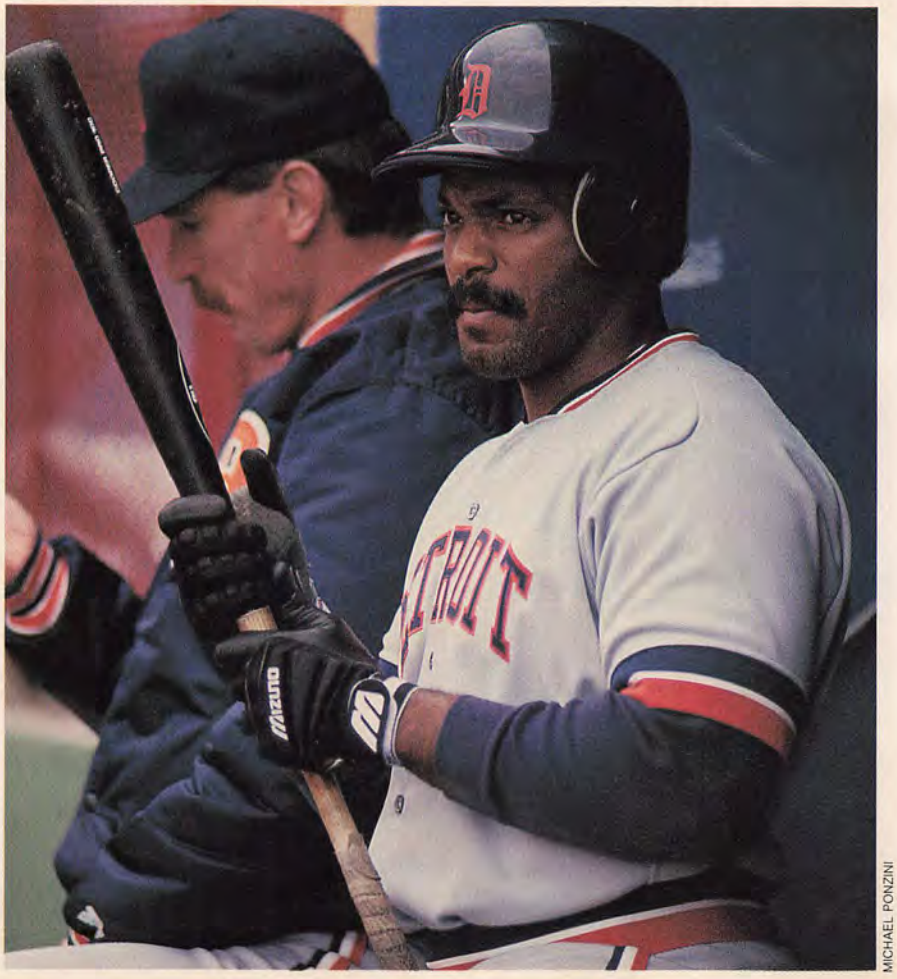
But not all the numbers in baseball had a negative connotation. Nolan Ryan, the world's oldest living power pitcher, posted his 300th victory on behalf of the Texas Rangers and the forty-something crowd en route to a season successful enough to convince him to try again in 1991. He also accounted for an unprecedented sixth hitless game in a season that produced a landmark nine no-hit efforts, including one that left the author, Andy Hawkins of the woeful Yankees, a 4-0 loser to the Chicago White Sox.

Cecil Fielder, who had grown so dissatisfied with his platoon role in Toronto that he went halfway around the world in 1989 for the chance to play regularly, returned from the Orient in 1990 and became one of the most popular Japanese imports in the last decade. The massive slugger, handed the first-base job in Detroit, slammed 51 home runs. Not since Yankee teammates Roger Maris and Mickey Mantle chased the ghost of Babe Ruth in 1961 had an A.L. player hit as many as 50. Fielder accounted for his 50th and 51st home runs on the final night of the season in, appropriately, Yankee Stadium.

The batting races gained more than the usual attention for different reasons. Willie McGee, dealt by the St. Louis Cardinals on August 29, gained credit for his second N.L. title with a .335 average while performing in the uniform of the A.L. champion Athletics. And George Brett of the Kansas City Royals, a .329 hitter in 1990, was honored as the first man ever to lead a league in batting in three different decades. Then there was the permanent attachment formed by Barry Bonds with his father. The younger Bonds hit 33 homers and stole 52 bases for the Pirates, joining an exclusive 30-30 club dominated by Bobby Bonds, who accomplished the feat five times.

When it came to family ties, though, nothing matched the bonding of Ken Griffey Sr. and Ken Griffey Jr. in Seattle. Only the previous year, they had become the first father-son duo ever to play major league baseball at the same time. But the elder Griffey was a part-time player in Cincinnati, while Junior blossomed as an everyday center fielder for the Mariners.

It seemed cruel treatment to some when the Reds, en route to the N.L. West title, released the 40-year-old Griffey in August, but it worked out for the best. The Mariners signed him to a



MICHAEL PONZINI

After two-plus nondescript seasons in Toronto, Cecil Fielder packed his bags and headed to Japan in 1989 for a chance to play regularly. Upon his return from the Orient in 1990, the mammoth Fielder became the "samurai slugger" for the Detroit Tigers, swatting 51 home runs. He was the first major leaguer to reach the 50-homer mark since 1977.

contract and placed him in the same lineup with his son. In their first common start, they rapped back-to-back singles. Not long afterward, in a game at Anaheim Stadium, they hit consecutive home runs.

Remarkably, the elder Griffey batted .377 in the junior circuit. "This last month has been a wonderful time for me," he said in the final week of the season, "and it probably still hasn't really sunk in. I'm not surprised by what I've seen (Ken Jr.) do. He might be surprised by what he's seen me do, though."

Certainly, the 14,770 fans in Tiger Stadium, as well as a TV audience of undetermined number, were surprised to see Chicago's Steve Lyons pull down his uniform pants on first base after a slide during a White Sox-Tigers game. During an argument between Detroit pitcher Dan Petry and umpire Jim Evans, Lyons—known as "Psycho" to his teammates—attempted to clean his legs, clad only in shorts and an athletic supporter. "After they started arguing," he said, "I just forgot where I was." The roar of the crowd refreshed his memory.

Lyons and his Chicago teammates, who gave Oakland a run for the A.L. West crown before fading, had the bittersweet distinction of closing the oldest park in major league baseball, ringing down the curtain on Comiskey Park on September 30, 80 years after it opened on the South Side. In 1991 they will move to a new Comiskey Park located across the street from what once was billed as the "baseball palace of the world."

Other institutional changes in 1990 involved colleges seeking new athletic alignments that would produce more revenue. Penn State agreed to become the 11th school in the Big Ten Conference, Arkansas and South Carolina joined the Southeastern Conference, Florida State was welcomed by the Atlantic Coast Conference and Miami became the first southern member of the Big East Conference. Notre Dame assured itself of the largest football take by divorcing itself from the contract negotiated by the College Football Association, which it had helped to form, and signing an exclusive agreement with NBC. The latter soon became identified as the Notre Dame Broadcasting Co.

On the field, the Fighting Irish were unable to dictate terms after their 27-10 loss to Miami, which had fallen to Florida State earlier in the 1989 season. Notre Dame claimed the position of No. 1 after overpowering previously undefeated Colorado, 21-6, in the Orange Bowl on New Year's Night, but voters in both wire-service polls put more stock in the Irish's head-to-head meeting with Miami and awarded the national title to the Hurricanes.

No title transfer was accomplished with as much force or registered such extensive shock as that which transpired in boxing's heavyweight division. James (Buster) Douglas, a largely anonymous contender, pummeled Mike Tyson for the better part of 10 rounds before knocking out the seemingly indestructible champion, a 42-to-1 favorite. Although promoter Don King talked two sanctioning bodies into briefly suspending the decision on the flimsiest of evidence, the weight of public opinion soon forced the World Boxing Council and World Boxing Association to recognize Douglas as Tyson's successor.

Tennis crowned some new champions, too, including 16-year-old Monica Seles and 19-year-old Pete Sampras. The former defeated Steffi Graf, who was troubled by injury, illness and controversy involving her father, to become the youngest winner in French Open history. The latter blitzed another young star, Andre Agassi, to become the youngest male champion in U.S. Open history. The remarkable success of 14-year-old Jennifer Capriati further enlivened the sport, but one old-timer did herself and the sport proud. Martina Navratilova, 33, claimed her ninth Wimbledon singles trophy.

The distribution of trophies became a secondary issue in golf after the founders of Shoal Creek Golf Club, site of the 1990 PGA Championship, revealed that blacks were not welcome to

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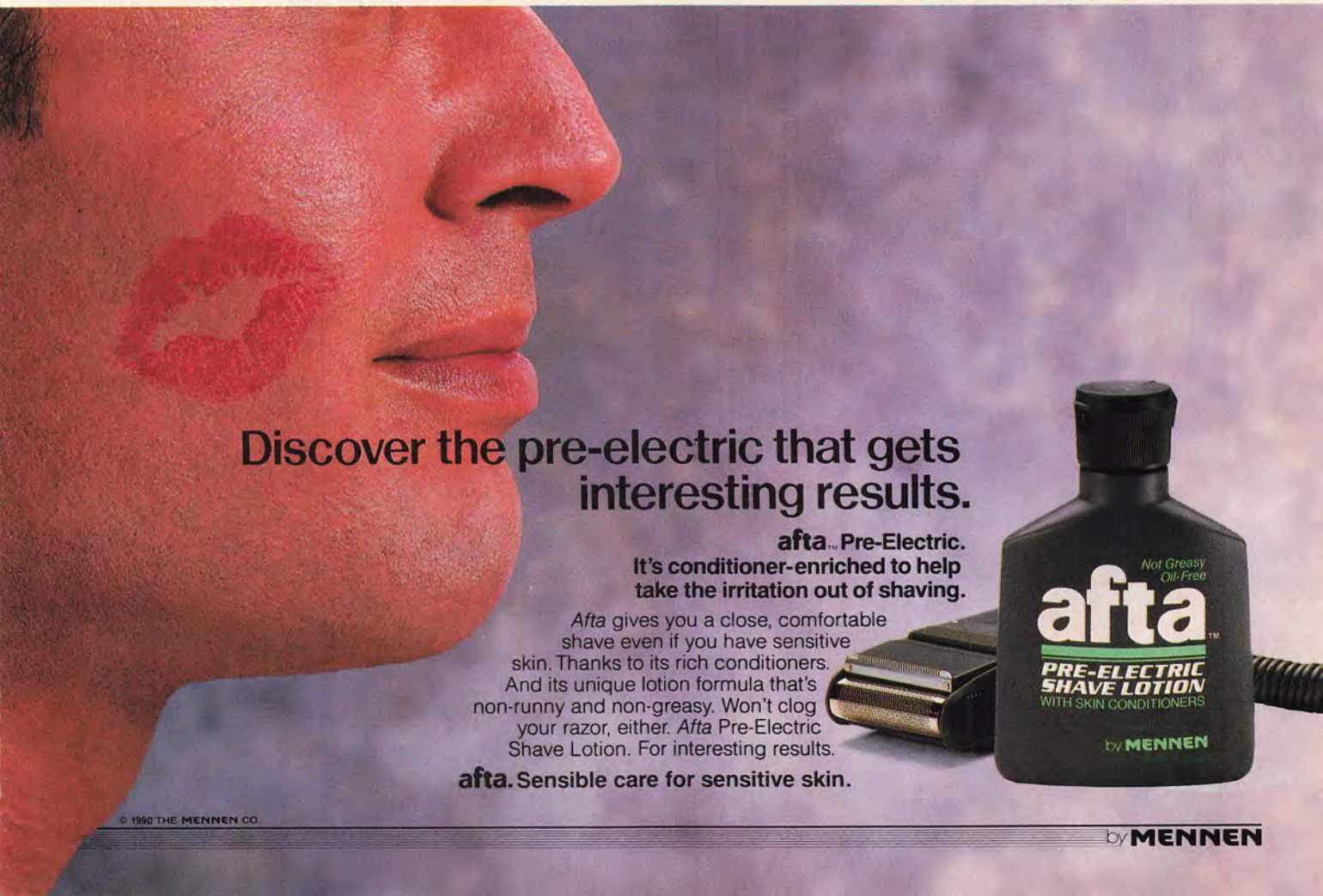
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COLLEGE LIST

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Arizona	ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQ
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Arkansas	ABC FGHIJKLMNOPQ
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California	ABC E GH K NO
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Colorado	ABC EFGHIJKLMNO Q
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Cornell	ABC G
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DePaul	ABC FG J L NO Q
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Florida	ABC EFGHIJKLMNOPQ
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Grambling	AB G K P
Hawaii	ABC G P
Houston	ABC GH KL NO
Idaho	ABC G
Illinois	ABCD FGHIJKLMNOPQ
Indiana	ABC EFGHIJKLMNOPQ
Iowa	ABC FG IJKLMNOPQ
Kansas	ABCD FG I KL NOPQ
Kansas St.	ABC G K NOPQ
Kentucky	ABCD FGH KL NOPQ
Louisiana St.	ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQ
Louisville	ABCD FG IJKLMNOPQ
Maine	AB G
Maryland	ABC G KL NO Q
Miami, Fla.	ABC EFGHIJKLMNOPQ
Michigan	ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQ
Michigan St.	ABC G IJKL NOPQ
Minnesota	ABCD FGHI KL NOP
Mississippi	ABC G KL NOPQ
Mississippi St.	ABC GH K NOPQ
Missouri	ABCDE GH JK NOPQ
Montana	ABC G
Montana St.	ABC G
Navy	ABC G K P
Nebraska	ABC FGHIJKLMNOPQ
New Mexico	AB G P
N. Carolina	ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQ
N. Carolina St.	ABCD G IJKLMNOPQ
Northwestern	ABC G K NO Q
Notre Dame	ABC EFGHIJKLMNOP
Ohio St.	ABC E GHIJKLMNOPQ
Oklahoma	ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQ
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Oregon	ABC E GH L NO Q
Oregon St.	ABC E GH NO Q
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CHAMPIONS

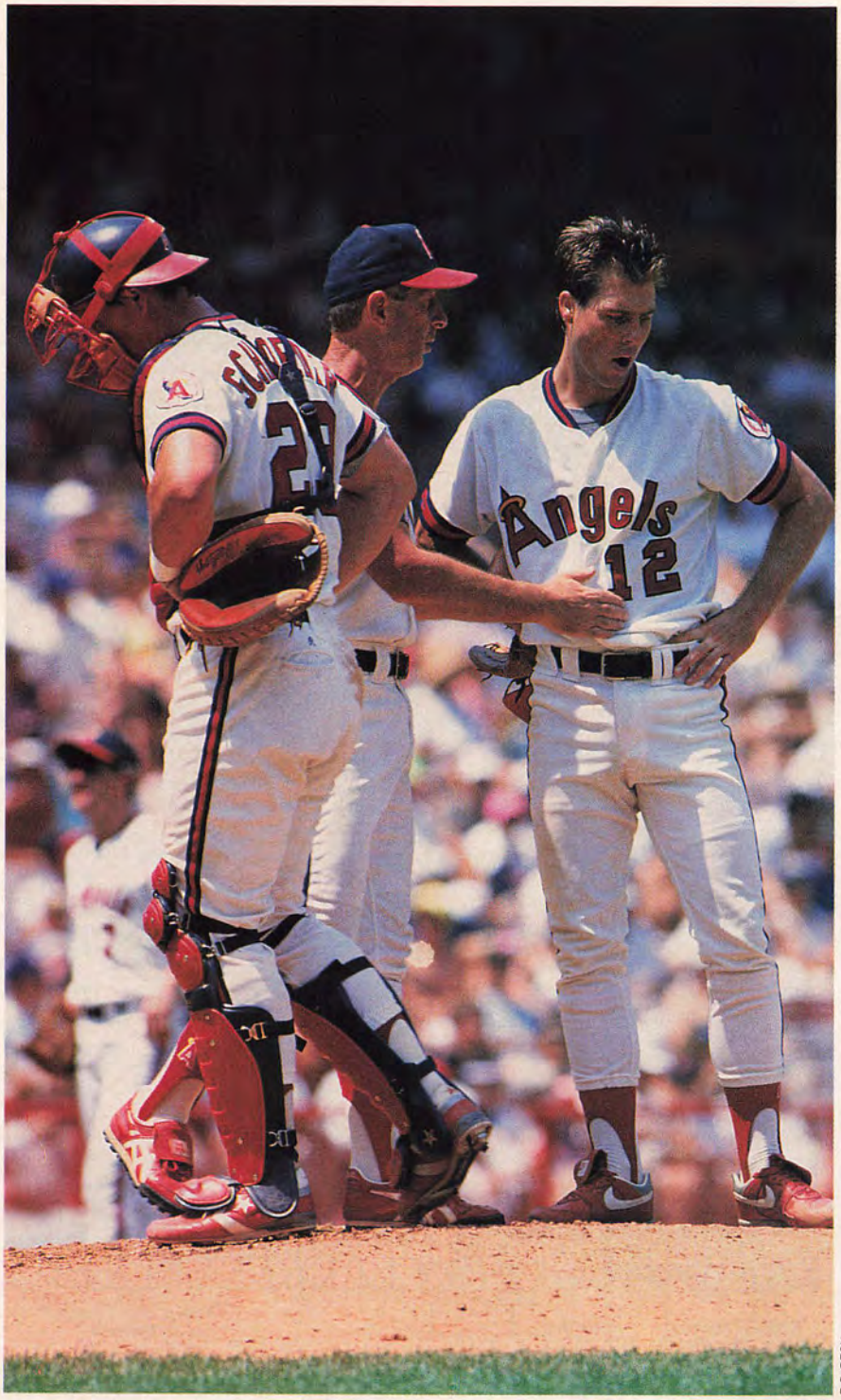
join. Although a threatened boycott of the event was averted when the club admitted an honorary black, several sponsors chose not to participate in the telecast. The PGA Tour, meanwhile, pledged to hold no future events at clubs where discrimination was practiced. The U.S. Golf Association followed suit, although clubs that already had been awarded upcoming events don't have to comply. Back at Shoal Creek, Wayne Grady won the PGA title in uneventful fashion.

One major golf championship proved to be both dramatic and satisfying. Hale Irwin, who hadn't won a tournament in five years and received a special exemption to compete, became the oldest winner in U.S. Open history when he defeated Mike Donald by sinking a birdie putt on the 19th playoff hole at the Medinah Country Club near Chicago. The 45-year-old Irwin had won the tournament twice previously. And six days later he won again, capturing the Buick Classic.

Lyle Alzado entertained hopes of a similarly impressive comeback—in this case, from retirement. Alzado, a former Pro Bowl defensive end with the Oakland/Los Angeles Raiders, decided at age 41 that he missed the violence of pro football and wanted to give it another shot. Raiders Owner Al Davis gave him the chance and Alzado performed admirably, especially considering that he had been a National Football League spectator the previous five years. But Alzado decided to re-retire when the Raiders opted to develop younger players. "The guy can play," defensive line coach Bill Urbanik said. "Circumstances did not allow it, but if it was some other team, he could have made it."

Continued

Among baseball's several free-agent busts in 1990 was California's Mark Langston. The left-hander started the season on a high note, combining with Mike Witt on a no-hitter in April. But his 10-17 record and 4.40 earned-run average hardly merited his five-year, $16 million contract.



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CHAMPIONS

Seventy-two-year-old George Allen made it back to the college gridiron when Long Beach State hired him as head coach. Allen, who established himself as one of the top defensive minds in the game while coaching no losing teams in 14 pro seasons, came out of retirement in 1990 to revive the 49ers' flagging fortunes. Allen had not coached on the collegiate level since 1956.

That was seven years before Bo Schembechler blew his first whistle as a collegiate head coach. Twenty-seven years later, in the 1990 Rose Bowl, General Bo called it quits, signing off with a 17-10 loss to Southern Cal. Though he never won a national championship and was criticized for a lackluster bowl-game record, Schembechler left with 234 victories—more than all but four coaches in collegiate history. Schembechler moved down the road from Ann Arbor to Detroit, where he became president of baseball's Tigers.

Another big-name coach who made an unusual career switch was the Lakers' Pat Riley. The dapper coach of four NBA champions in the 1980s left NBA Most Valuable Player Magic Johnson and the gang behind for the bright lights of television. NBC hired Riley as studio host of the network's coverage of NBA games.

Riley undoubtedly will have plenty of opportunities to sing the praises of San Antonio's David Robinson, the league's top 1989-90 rookie. In his first season after two years of naval duty, the 7-foot-1 center matched up nicely with the likes of New York's Patrick Ewing and Houston's Akeem Olajuwon while leading the Spurs to an unprecedented 35-game turnaround and a Midwest Division title.

Robinson was among several athletes who made big names for themselves in their first year at new levels. Barry Sanders of the Detroit Lions fell 10 yards short of the NFL's 1989 rushing title and was named the league's Rookie of the Year. Shaquille O'Neal became one of the nation's dominant centers as a rookie at Louisiana State, while freshman guard Kenny Anderson led Georgia Tech to the Final Four with his dazzling antics from the point. First baseman Hal Morris helped Cincinnati win a World Series, while Braves outfielder Dave Justice and Indians catcher Sandy Alomar Jr., also major league rookies, were bright spots in otherwise dismal years in Atlanta and Cleveland. And Minnesota's Mike Modano, Pittsburgh's Mark Recchi and Chicago's Jeremy Roenick ranked high on the scoring charts as NHL novices.

For Robinson, Douglas, Sampras and the other new stars, 1990 marked a nice starting point. But can they repeat their performances? There are many who would like to see them do it again—and thereby prove themselves as true champions. ■

1

ALLEN DEAN STEELE

2

FOCUS ON SPORTS

A Phoenix Cardinals fan (1) proves that some people will do anything to be noticed — especially if a TV camera might be lurking nearby.

Derrike Cope winning the Daytona 500 was to stock-car racing what Buster Douglas knocking out Mike Tyson was to boxing: a huge upset. Cope had never finished higher than sixth in a NASCAR Winston Cup race before taking advantage of Dale Earnhardt's misfortune at Daytona International Speedway. Earnhardt had dominated the race but blew a tire on the last lap, allowing Cope to roar past him to victory. Cope quickly discovered that the benefits of winning the Winston Cup circuit's main event are many (2).

BASEBALL

1 9 9 0

ROB BROWN

Entering the 1990 World Series, the Oakland Athletics knew that four victories over the Cincinnati Reds were all that separated them from baseball immortality. While winning more games than any other team for the third straight year (a feat surpassed only by the 1936-39 New York Yankees) and capturing their third consecutive American League pennant with a convincing playoff sweep of the Boston Red Sox, the defending world champion A's inspired comparisons with the game's all-time great teams. They needed only to dispense with Cincinnati —a team that had gone 41-42 after the All-Star break and 58-59 after June 3—to validate the widespread opinion that Oakland was the home of baseball's newest dynasty. But the A's just died—and was it ever nasty. Playing almost perfect baseball, the Reds swept Oakland in four games to cap a season in which they led the National League West from wire to wire. Jose Rijo **(previous page)** won two games and was named the Series' Most Valuable Player. He pitched seven innings as the Reds cruised in the opener, 7-0, and he did not allow a hit after the first inning of Game 4 while recording all but the final two outs in the 2-1 win that gave Cincinnati its first world championship in 14 years. The second game also was a thriller as the Reds came from behind to win, 5-4, on catcher Joe Oliver's 10th-inning single. Game 3 belonged to third baseman Chris Sabo **(2, being congratulated by Eric Davis and Todd Benzinger)**, who cracked two home runs in Cincinnati's 8-3 triumph. In the third inning of that contest, Manager Lou Piniella's club scored seven runs—only one less than Oakland tallied in the entire Series. The A's never scored after the third inning of any game and batted just .207. The Reds, meanwhile, blistered Oakland pitchers for 45 hits and 22 runs and completely dominated the A.L. champs, much to the chagrin of Rickey Henderson **(1)** and his teammates.

1

RICH PILLING/THE SPORTING NEWS

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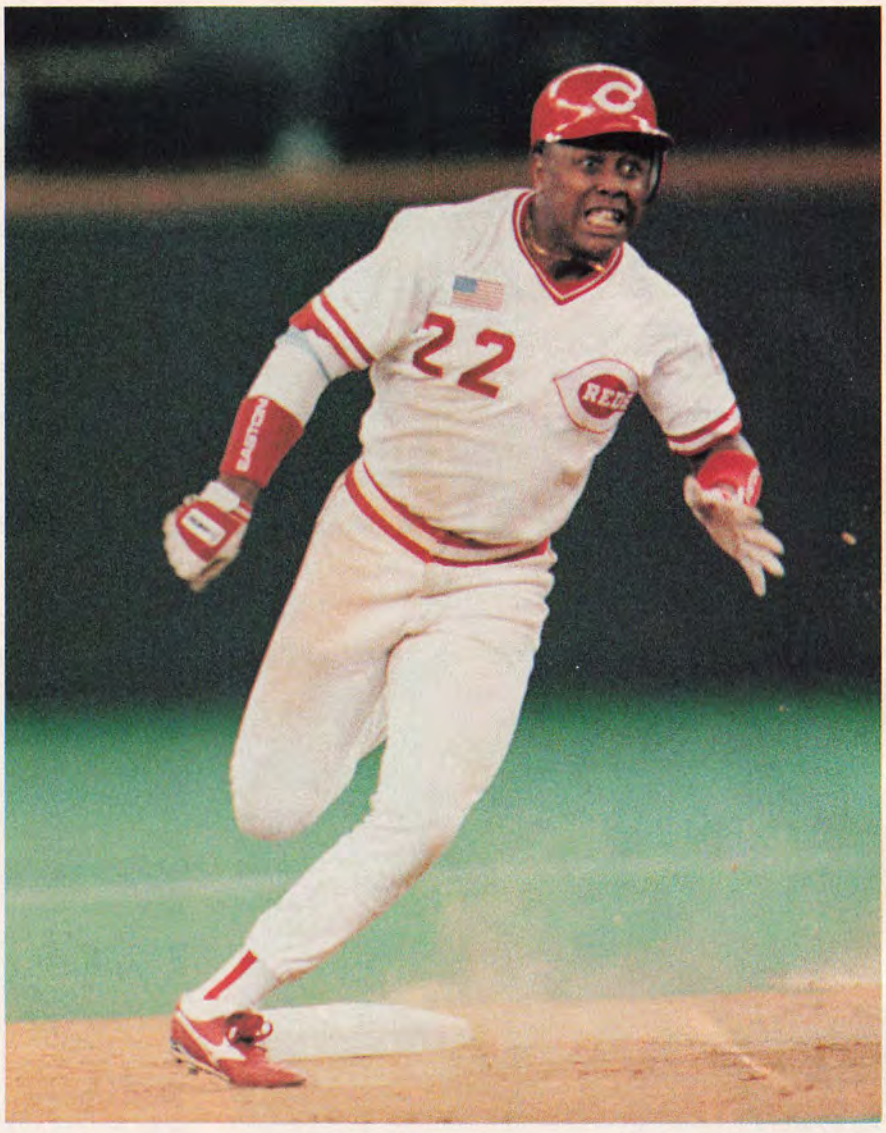
Will Billy Hatcher **(1)** ever make an out? After two games of the World Series, many fans were starting to wonder. The Cincinnati center fielder reached base all nine times he came to the plate in the first two games, getting seven hits and two walks. Hatcher, a .276 hitter in the regular season, went 3-for-3 (a single and two doubles) in Game 1 and scored three runs. He was even better the next night, going 4-for-4, knocking in a run and scoring a pair. He singled, doubled twice and then scored the tying run in the eighth inning after tripling off the glove of right fielder Jose Canseco. That gave Hatcher seven straight hits, a World Series record. The A's walked Hatcher intentionally the next time up. Mike Moore finally retired him on a double-play grounder in the first inning of Game 3, but Hatcher finished the Series with a .750 average (9-for-12) and six runs scored. He had to leave Game 4 after one plate appearance when a Dave Stewart pitch bruised his left hand.

Unfortunately for the A's, Canseco was even colder than Hatcher was hot. Oakland's star slugger homered to spark a three-run rally in Game 2, but that was his only hit of the Series in 12 at-bats. Canseco had back problems that limited him both offensively and defensively, and Manager Tony La Russa finally benched him in the fourth game. He came on to pinch hit in the ninth inning but bounced out to third. Though the Reds shut down virtually all of the Oakland batters, much of the blame —and the abuse **(2)**—was focused on the outspoken Canseco.

1



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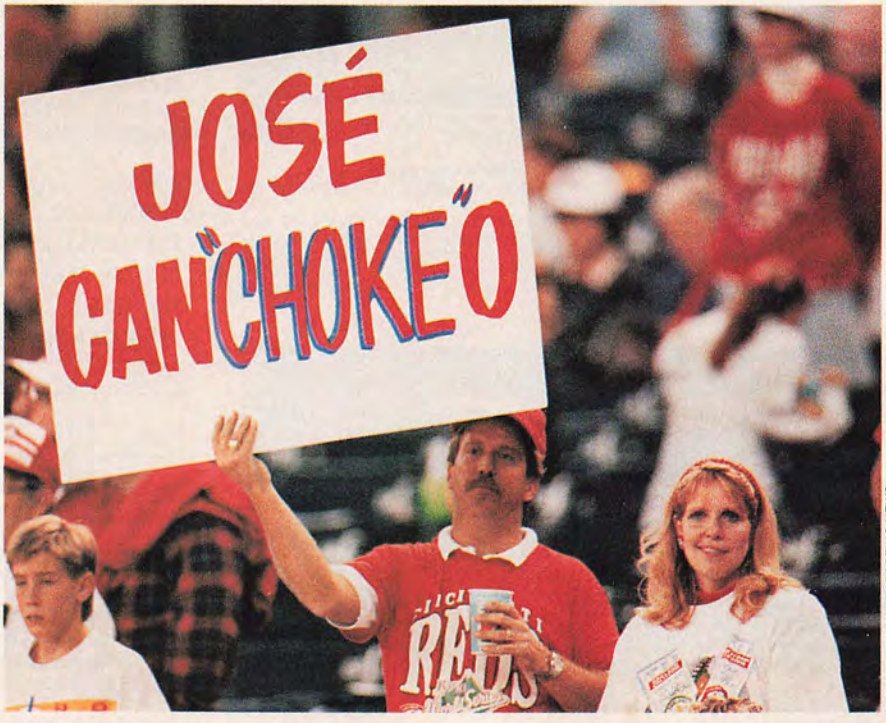

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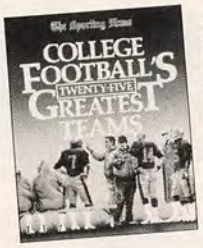

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Though the real story of the 1990 A.L. Championship Series was Oakland's complete domination of the Red Sox, what likely will be best remembered was umpire Terry Cooney's ejection of Roger Clemens **(3, center)** in Game 4. Clemens represented Boston's last hope when he took the mound with his club in a three-games-to-none hole. But virtually any chance of a comeback evaporated in the second inning when Clemens, who didn't like Cooney's calls of balls and strikes, and the umpire started jawing. Clemens said some "magic words" and Cooney tossed him out. Boston Manager Joe Morgan **(1, with Cooney behind him)** raised a stink, but to no avail. Though some observers argued that Cooney overreacted, especially in such an important game, the Red Sox clearly were overmatched, with or without Clemens. The A's posted the sweep with 9-1, 4-1, 4-1 and 3-1 victories en route to their third straight A.L. pennant.

Cincinnati and Pittsburgh, the only two N.L. teams that failed to make the playoffs in the 1980s, kicked off the '90s in style by winning their respective division championships and setting up a rematch of the 1979 playoffs. The Pirates won that series, but in 1990 the Reds earned their first trip to the World Series since 1976 with a four-games-to-two triumph. Though each game was close, the Reds outplayed the Pirates in every area—starting pitching, relief pitching ("Nasty Boys" Rob Dibble and Randy Myers shared playoff MVP honors), hitting and defense. The Reds recorded four outfield assists, including one when right fielder Paul O'Neill gunned down Andy Van Slyke **(2, after the tag by Chris Sabo)**, who had tried to advance from second to third base on a flyout in Game 2. Pittsburgh's Wally Backman called Cincinnati's outfield play "the whole key to the series." Said Van Slyke: "They're almost robotic out there."

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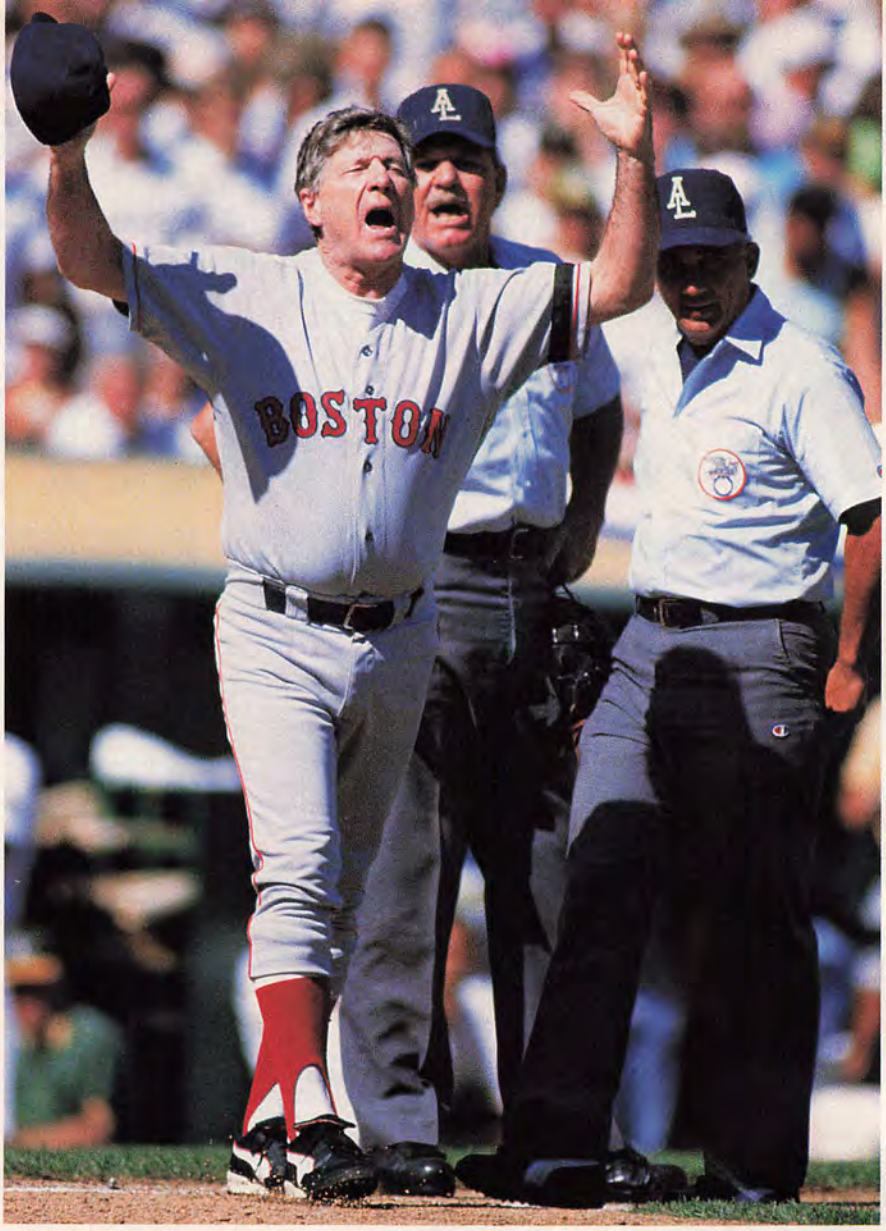

RON VESELY

2

RON VESELY

3

RON VESELY

It was a tough year for two of baseball's best-known figures, Pete Rose and George Steinbrenner, and not even the pleas of an Uncle Sam-like supporter (1) could help. Rose, banned from baseball in 1989 for betting-related incidents considered detrimental to the game, was convicted of tax evasion and sentenced to a five-month term at the federal penitentiary in Marion, Ill., where, with feet up (2), the game's all-time hits leader found time to watch some television. Steinbrenner (3) was stripped of his control of the New York Yankees by Commissioner Fay Vincent, who ruled that the team's principal owner had acted in a manner "not in the best interests of baseball." Steinbrenner's transgression was paying a gambler $40,000 to uncover unfavorable information about Dave Winfield, the longtime Yankees outfielder with whom he had engaged in a long-running feud. Two weeks after Vincent's decision, theater producer Robert Nederlander was unanimously approved to succeed Steinbrenner in the Yanks' management team and to take over the day-to-day operations of the club. Steinbrenner had headed a group that purchased the Yankees in January 1973 from CBS. Under his direction, the Yankees won four American League pennants and two World Series championships in 18 seasons. However, the team often was in turmoil—the operation was known as the Bronx Zoo—as Steinbrenner seemingly hired and fired managers at whim, conducted a hands-on policy that frustrated managers and players alike and escalated the free-agent wars late in his reign by throwing big money at players of questionable value.

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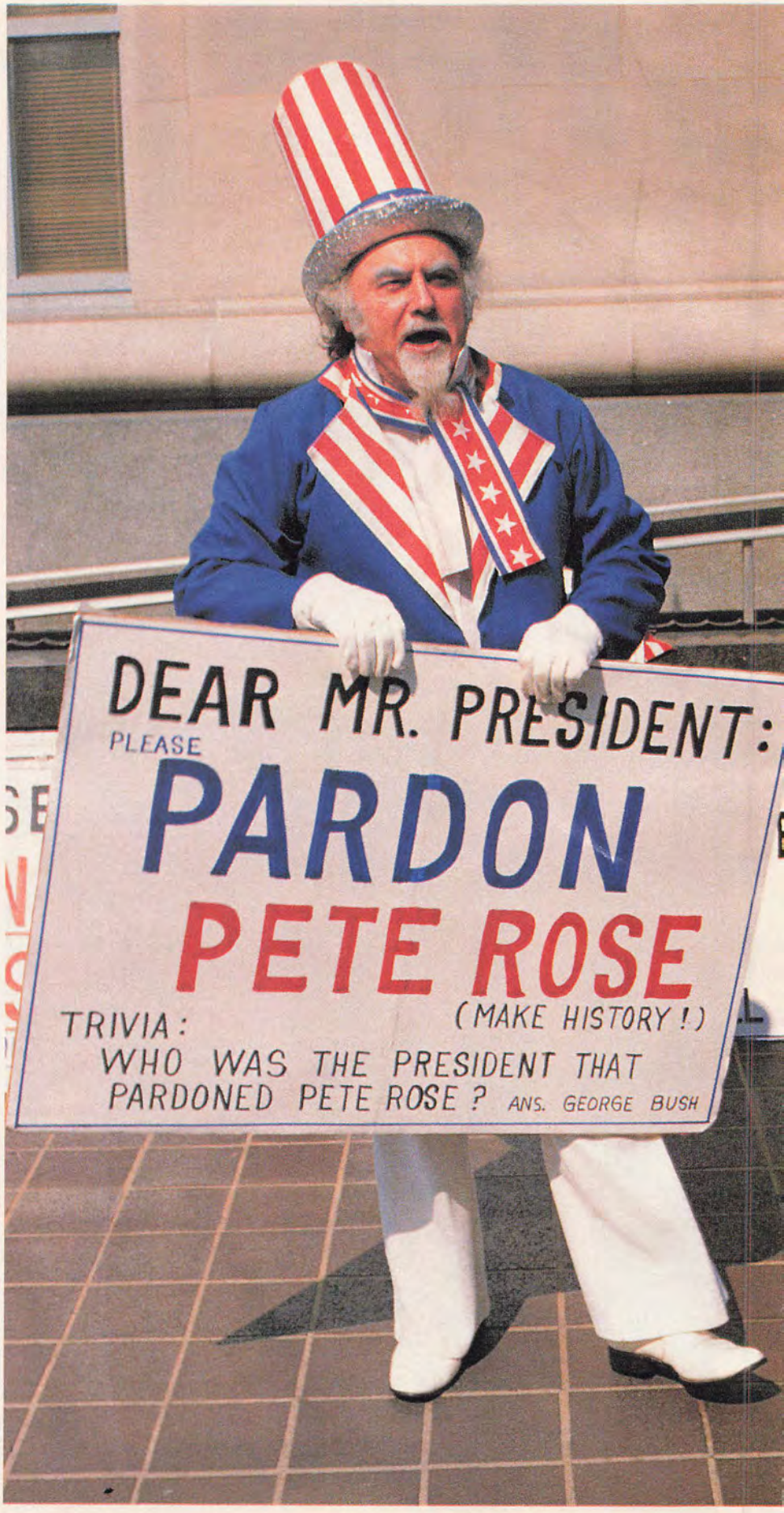

FOCUS ON SPORTS

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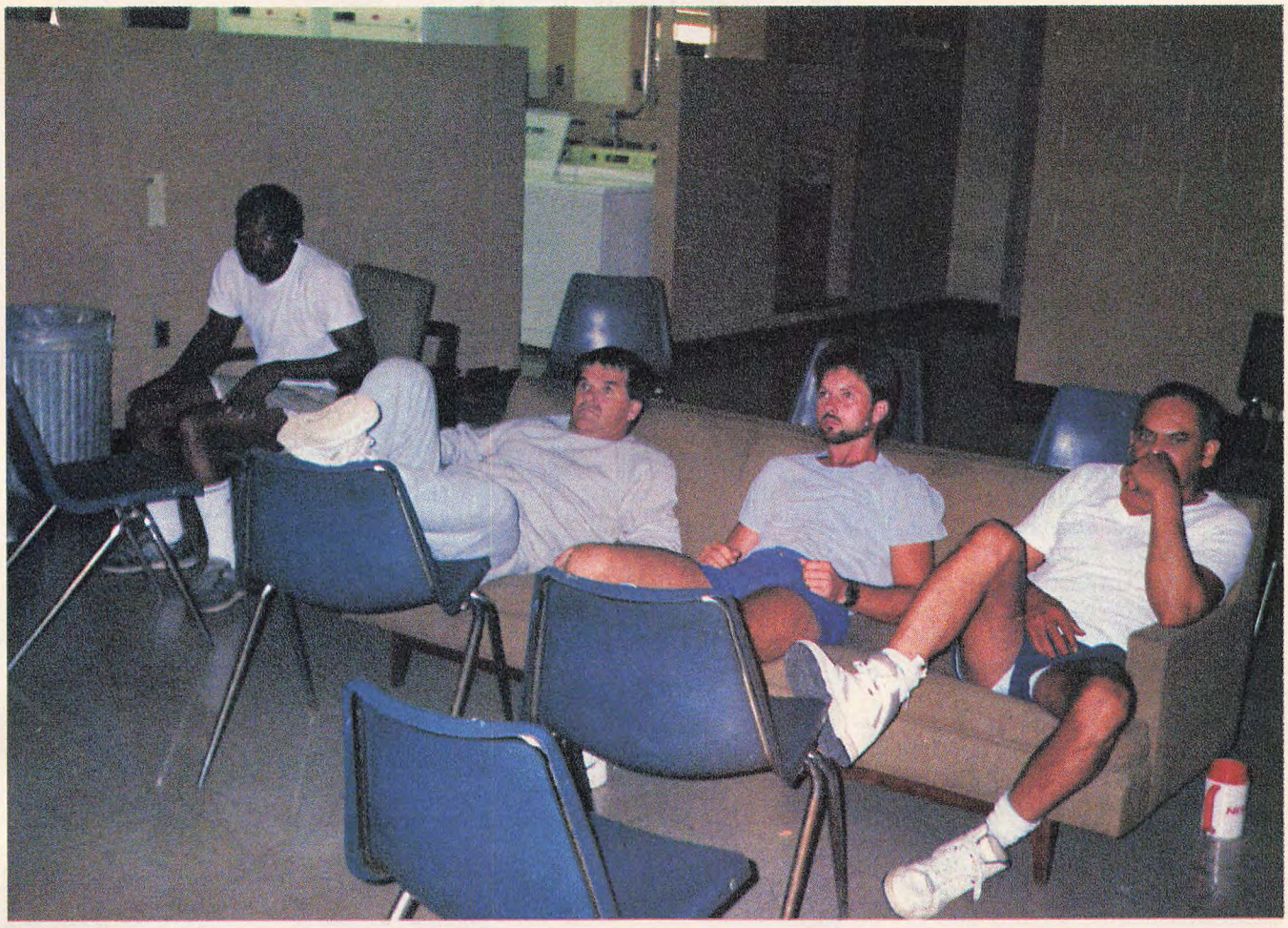

DOUG AND SAMMIE MAYS

3

RICH PILLING/THE SPORTING NEWS

Nolan Ryan, the Texas Rangers' 43-year-old wonder, continued to amaze the baseball world. He became the 20th pitcher in big-league history to win 300 games, achieving the milestone in Milwaukee before appreciative County Stadium fans **(1)**. Additionally, Ryan tossed his sixth career no-hitter in 1990, a year in which Fernando Valenzuela of the Los Angeles Dodgers **(2)** and Dave Stieb of the Toronto Blue Jays **(3)** also pitched no-hit games and a record nine no-hitters were tossed overall. Valenzuela threw his masterpiece against St. Louis the same night (June 29) that Oakland's Dave Stewart held Toronto hitless; Stieb, who three times in the previous two seasons had lost no-hit bids with two out in the ninth inning, got the majors' last no-hitter of the season in early September. Mark Langston (seven innings) and Mike Witt (two innings) of the California Angels got things started in the first week of the season when they combined on a no-hitter. Other no-hit artists: Randy Johnson, Seattle; Melido Perez, Chicago White Sox, whose gem was halted after six innings because of rain; Terry Mulholland, Philadelphia, and Andy Hawkins of the New York Yankees, who came up a loser in his no-hit game (and even lost badly, 4-0, to the White Sox). Hawkins' heartbreak came on the Sunday following the Friday no-hitters hurled by Valenzuela and Stewart.

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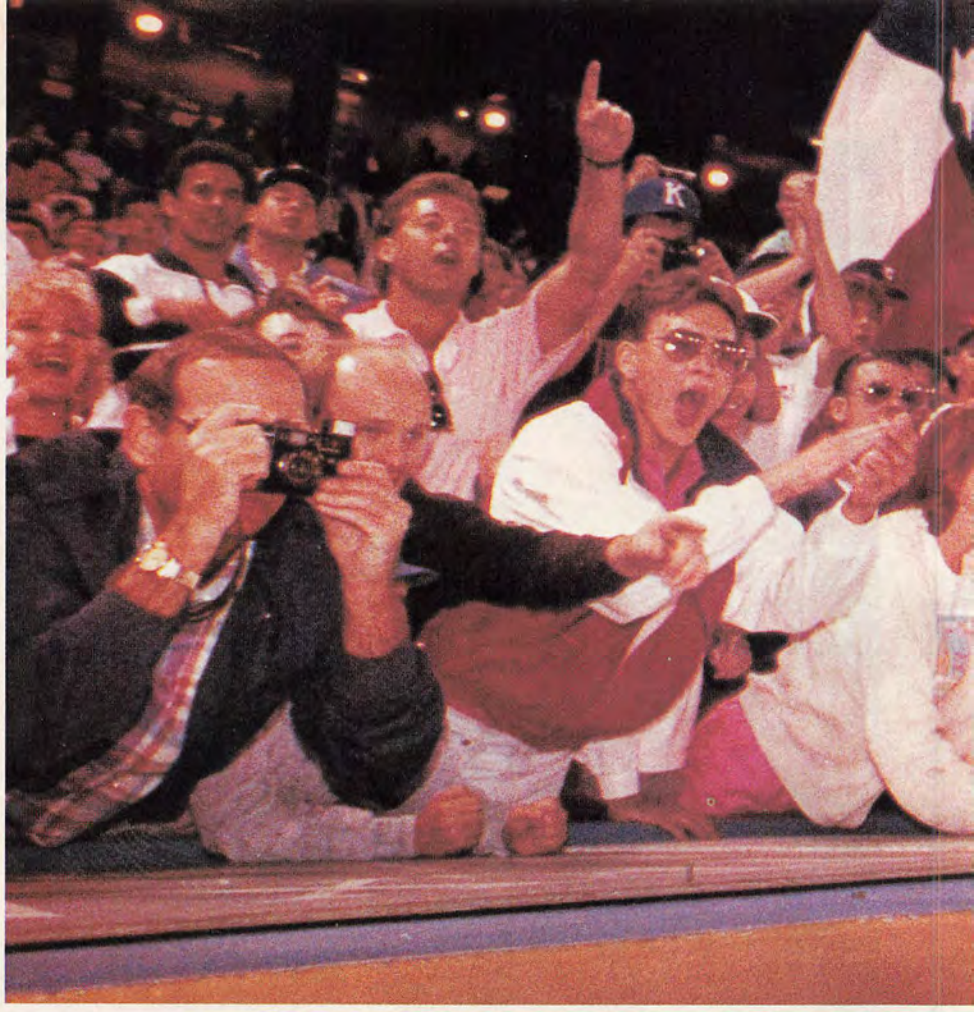

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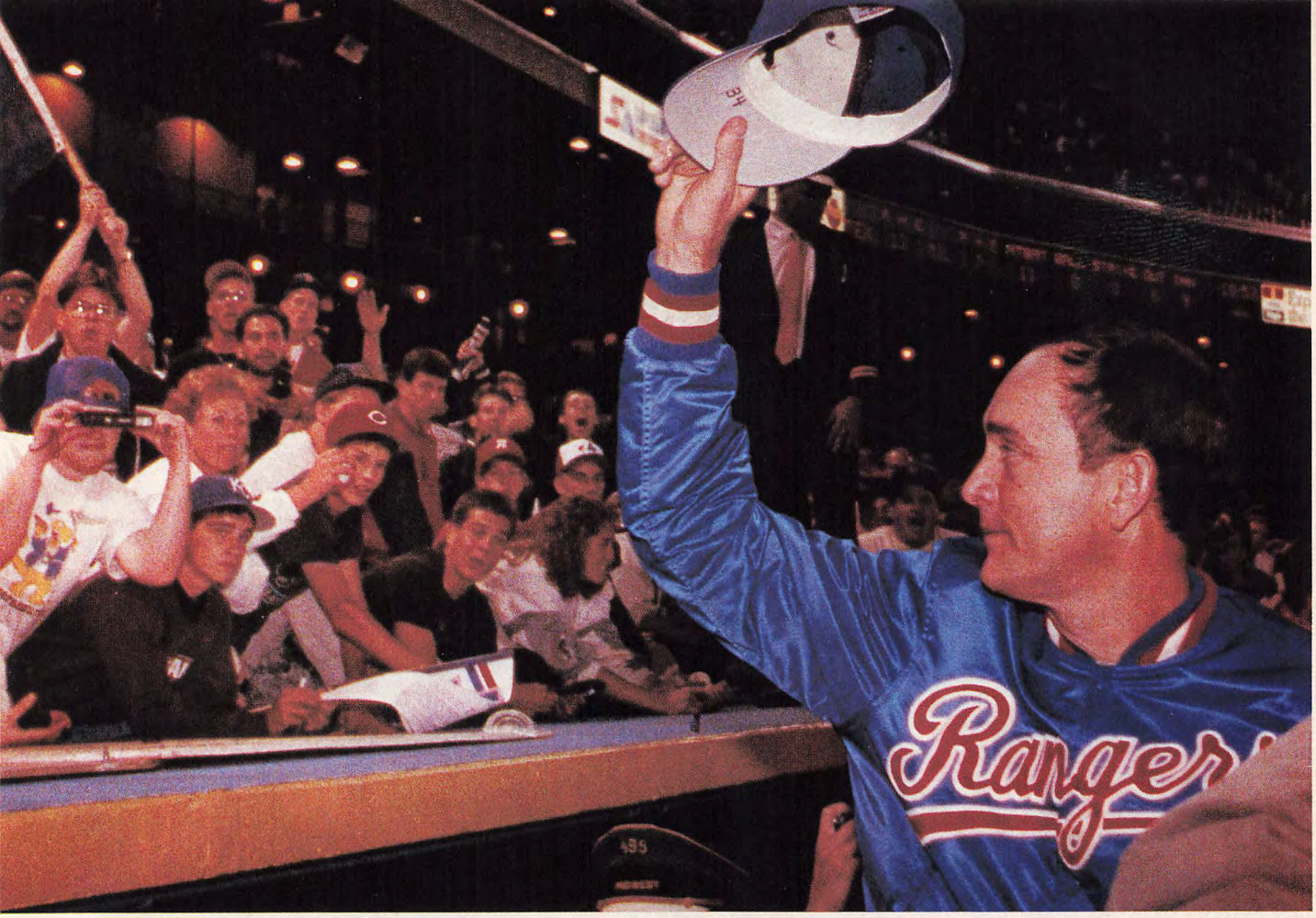
MEL BAILEY



LOUIS DeLUCA

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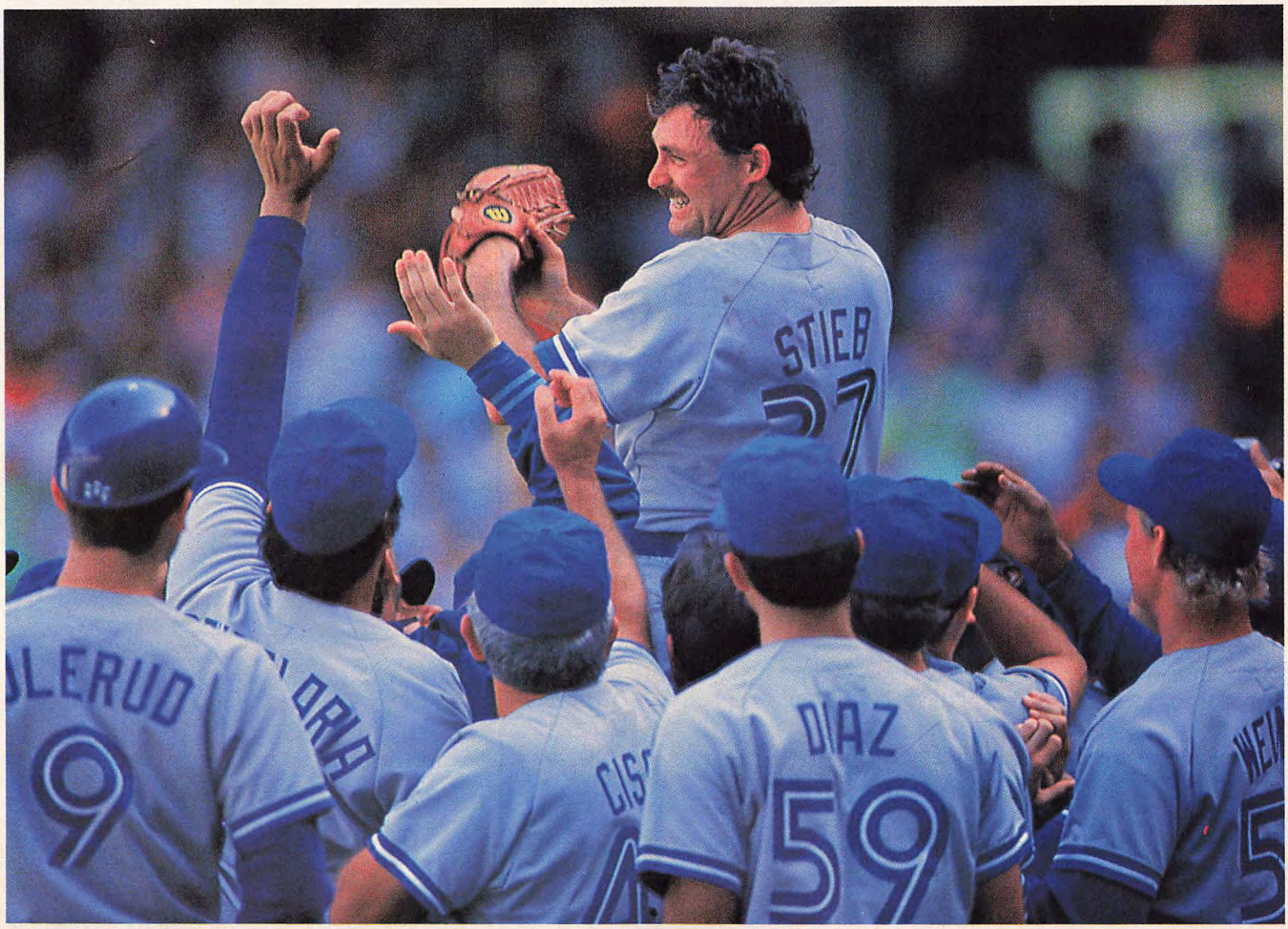


DAVID LIAM KYLE

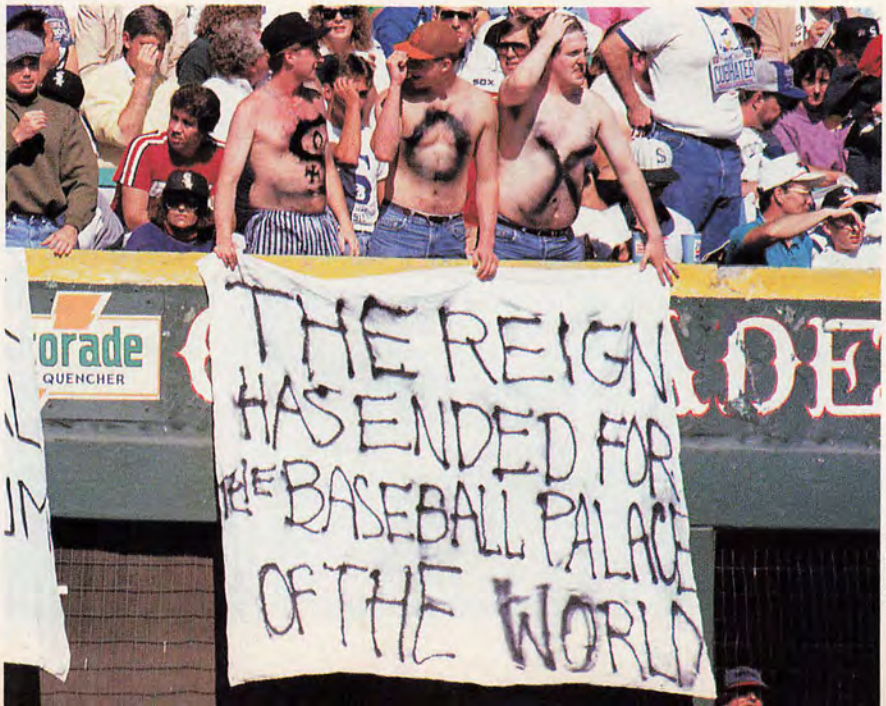
Chicago White Sox fans had plenty to be happy about in 1990—but they experienced twinges of sadness, too. The fans cheered on the White Sox as the club rose from a last-place finish in 1989 to the runner-up spot in the American League West, thanks in large measure to the battery **(1)** of reliever Bobby Thigpen (a record-setting 57 saves) and 42-year-old catcher Carlton Fisk (18 home runs, 85 runs batted in). But the faithful had to wipe away a tear or two when saying goodbye to Comiskey Park **(2)**, the onetime "baseball palace of the world." Comiskey, which opened its gates in 1910 and ranked as the oldest ball park in the major leagues, played host to its last White Sox game on September 30. A new Sox park will open in 1991—right across the street from the old Comiskey site.

Detroit first baseman Cecil Fielder **(3)**, hailed as one Japanese import that the Motor City could love, joined an elite club in 1990 when—to the utter astonishment of just about everyone—he powered 51 home runs for the Tigers. Previously, only 10 individuals had reached the 50-homer mark in the major leagues (those 10 had accomplished the feat a total of 17 times). Entering the season, Fielder had never hit more than 14 homers in a big-league season and, in fact, had topped out at 28 in the minor leagues. Sold by the Toronto Blue Jays to the Hanshin Tigers of the Japanese Central League in December 1988 after hitting 31 homers in four years and 220 games with the Jays, Fielder revived his career with a 38-homer season for the Japanese club. While most players are on the down side when they make the U.S.-to-Japan move, Fielder parlayed his big season into a return to the United States at age 26 via a contract offer from Detroit. Besides his impressive homer figure for the American League's Tigers, he also led the majors with 132 runs batted in.

1

SCOTT LEVY

2

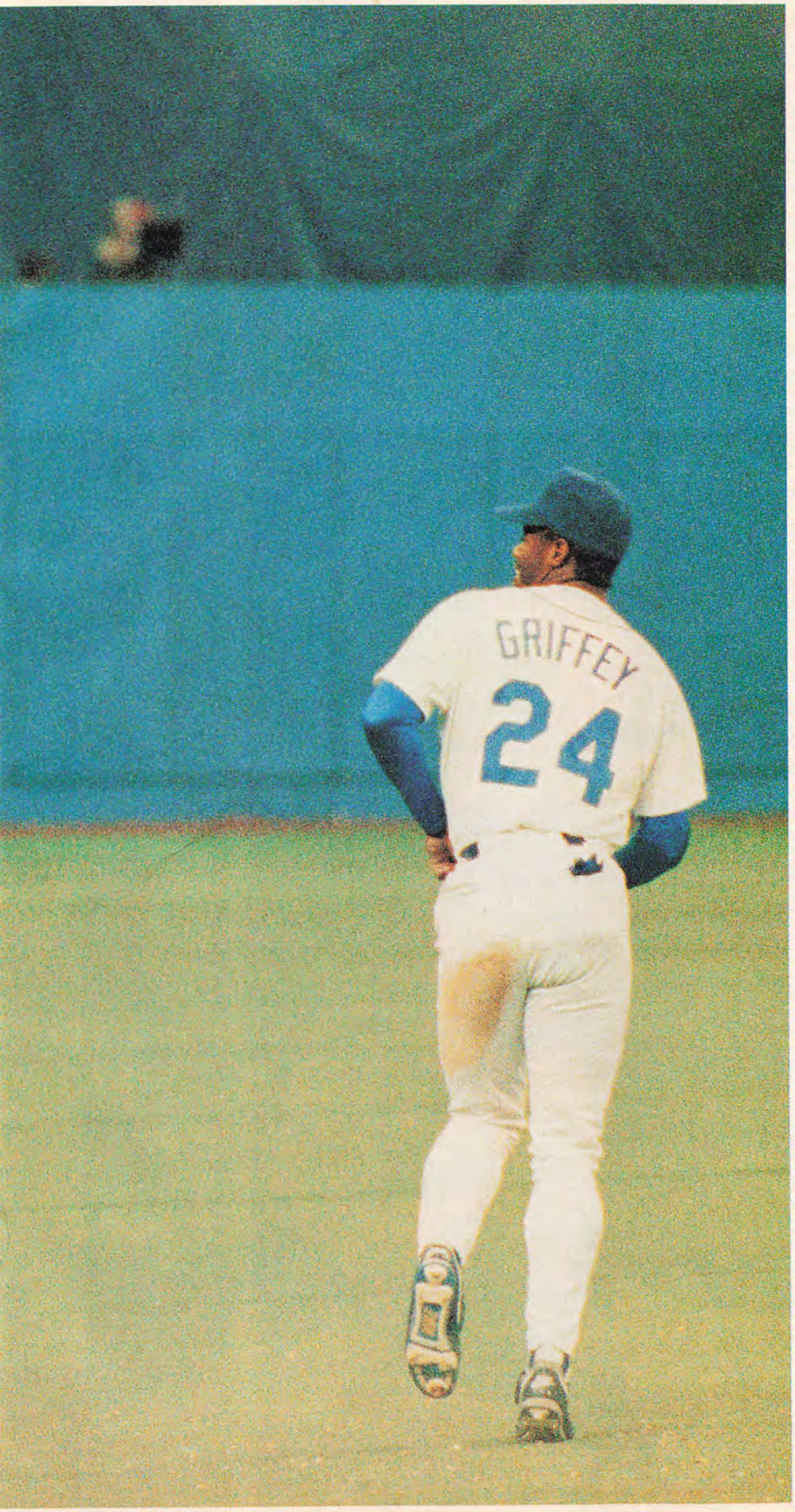


RON VESELY

3

SCOTT LEVY

Before the 1989 season, no father and son had ever played big-league baseball at the same time. That changed in '89, and the men who entered the record books that year embellished their achievement in 1990: They *excelled* together on the same team at the same time. Ken Griffey Sr., 40 years old and a career .297 hitter with the Cincinnati Reds, New York Yankees and Atlanta Braves in the previous 17 seasons, was released by the Reds in August and proceeded to sign with Ken Griffey Jr.'s team, the Seattle Mariners. The Griffeys, both outfielders, made history on the night of August 31 in Seattle when they appeared in the same lineup for the first time. They didn't disappoint. As the Mariners took the field for the game against the Kansas City Royals, the elder Griffey **(number 30)** trotted out to left field and his 20-year-old son, glancing over at dad, ran out to center field. In the bottom of the first inning, father and son—batting in the No. 2 and No. 3 slots, respectively—showed a flair for the dramatic by delivering consecutive singles for the Mariners. Two weeks later, in Anaheim, Calif., they turned up their theatrics a notch. Facing California righthander Kirk McCaskill in the first inning, Griffey Sr. and Griffey Jr. unloaded back-to-back home runs. At season's end, father showed a .377 batting mark for Seattle and had 18 RBIs in 21 games; son had a .300 average, with 22 homers and 80 RBIs.



HARLEY SOLTES

THEY SAID IT

Padres slugger **Jack Clark**, a former Yankee and Cardinal, about being booed at San Diego/Jack Murphy Stadium: "That's true, but being booed in New York or St. Louis is not like getting it down here. The fans here just go, 'Boo, Dude!' "

Comedian **Jay Leno**: "If Pete Rose bets on prison softball games, will he be barred from jail for life?"

Chicago Cubs shortstop **Shawon Dunston**, on teammate Ryne Sandberg's calm exterior: "You know he's mad when he gets the fingernail clipper and does his nails."

New Padres Manager **Greg Riddoch**, on gaining his first victory after three losses: "I used up my three mulligans."

Six-foot-10 pitcher **Randy Johnson**, who is known as Big Unit to his Seattle teammates, on why he wears a coat and tie when the Mariners are on the road: "You never know when you might meet Mrs. Unit."

NBC sportscaster **Don Criqui**, on Tigers slugger Cecil Fielder, who played in Japan in 1989: "Fielder may be the only Japanese import ever to be cheered in Detroit."

Chicago White Sox utilityman **Steve Lyons**, on 42-year-old teammate Carlton Fisk: "Pudge is so old, they didn't have history class when he went to school."

An American League-leading .329 average in 1990 made Kansas City's George Brett **(3)** the first man in big-league history to win batting titles in three decades. Brett won his first A.L. championship in 1976 with a .333 mark and copped his second crown in 1980 when he finished at .390 after flirting with the magical .400 mark. At the 1990 All-Star break, Brett was batting .267 with two home runs and 29 RBIs—and at age 37, he appeared headed downhill. Guess again. After the break, Brett hit at a .388 clip, drilled 12 homers and drove in 58 runs. Strangely, one of Brett's A.L. colleagues over the final five weeks of the season emerged as the *National League* batting champion. Oakland's Willie McGee, who wore a St. Louis uniform **(1)** through August 29 before being traded to the Athletics, left the National League while in the No. 2 spot in the batting race. Hitting .335 for the Cardinals, he was sandwiched between league leader Lenny Dykstra of Philadelphia (.340) and Dave Magadan of the New York Mets (.333). By season's end, Dykstra had slipped to .325, Magadan was down to .328 and fast-closing Eddie Murray of Los Angeles (.330) was the runner-up to champion McGee.

While Oakland slugger Jose Canseco **(4)** was a crowd favorite in 1990, television star Roseanne Barr **(2)** clearly wasn't. In fact, fans turned plain hostile on July 25 when Barr attempted to sing the national anthem between games of a Reds-Padres doubleheader in San Diego. Performing a shrill, off-key rendition of the anthem, Barr then spit on the ground and grabbed at her crotch. In baseball lingo, she had gone 0-for-3. Incensed over what it had witnessed and heard, the crowd booed lustily. Later, Barr said she panicked after the anthem had gotten off to a screeching start and added that the spitting and gesturing were "parodies" of ball players' actions. The comedienne refused to apologize for the affair.

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RICH PILLING/THE SPORTING NEWS

2

JOHN McDONOUGH

3

RICH PILLING/THE SPORTING NEWS

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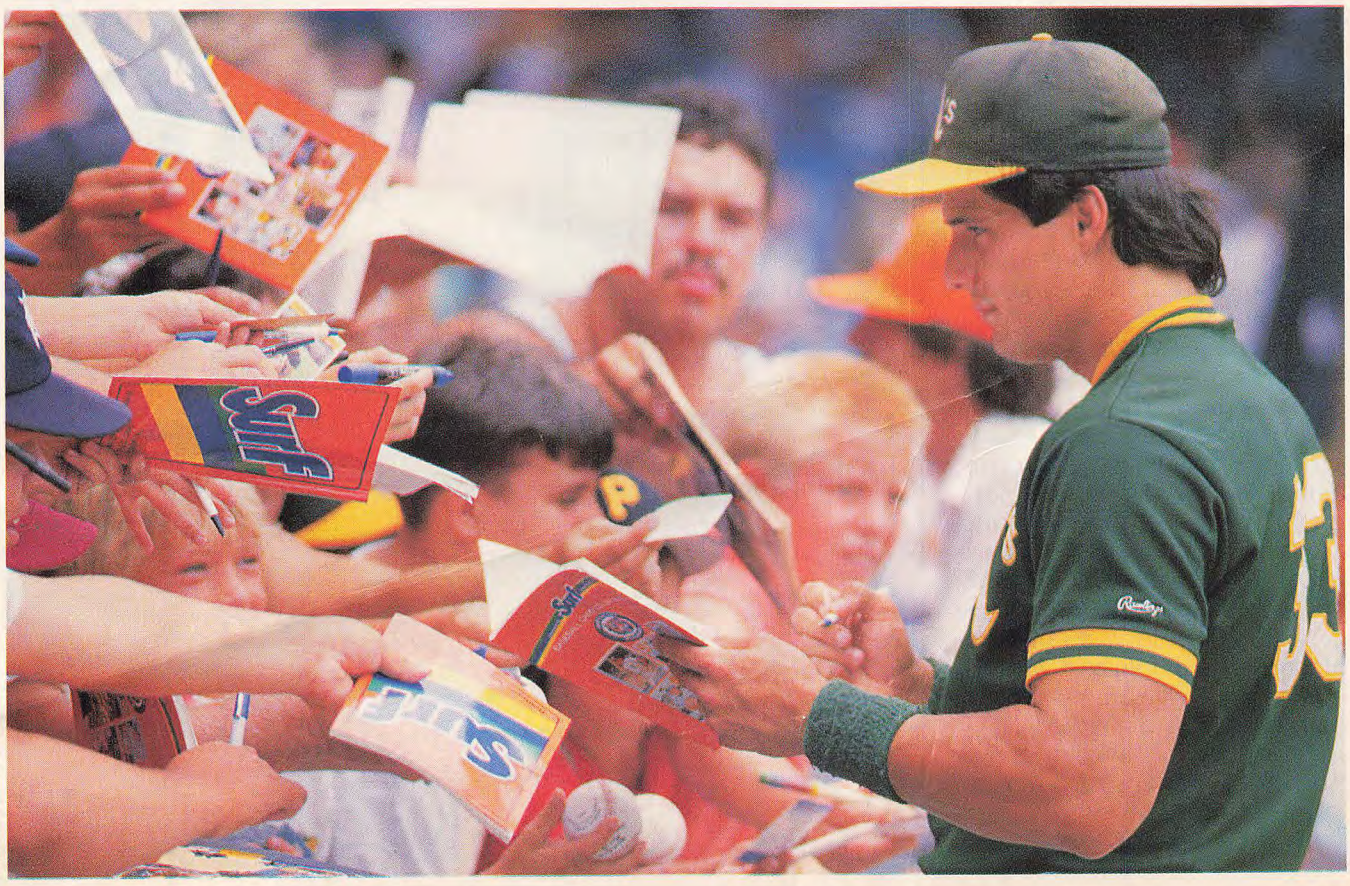
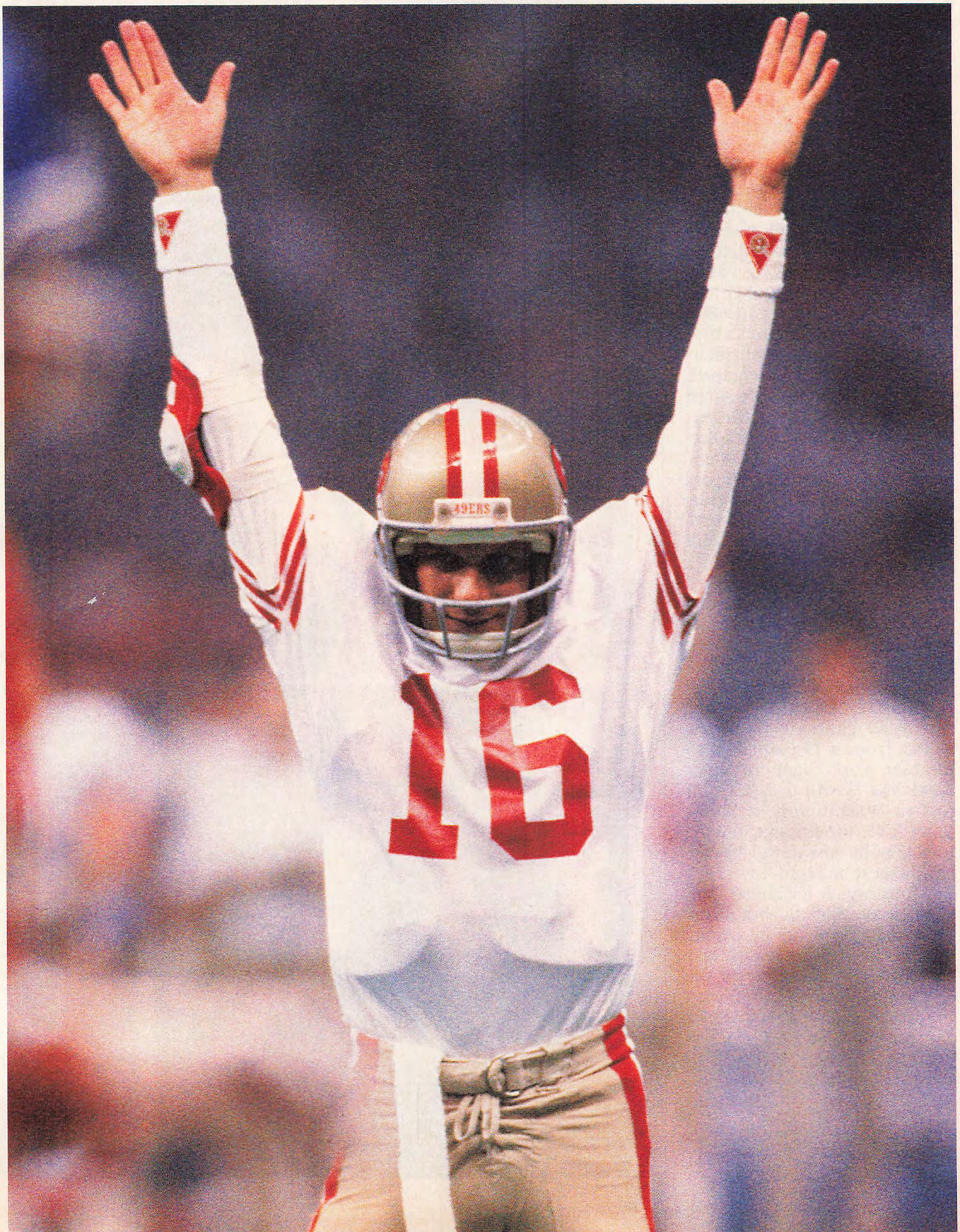


RICH PILLING/THE SPORTING NEWS

While the 1990 major league baseball season provided its usual share of thrills and surprises, the 3½-month period leading up to the start of the season had its disquieting moments. Owners and players could not agree on a new contract—the old one expired on December 31, 1989—and as winter deepened, it became apparent neither side was willing to budge and that the stalled negotiations might threaten the start of spring training and perhaps even affect the regular season. With the talks going nowhere, owners ordered a lockout of spring camps effective February 15. As the lockout continued into March, exhibition games were being canceled—much to the dismay of those who depended upon the spring contests for income and those who had made Florida and Arizona vacation plans structured around the games. Finally, on March 18, owners and players reached an accord on a four-year contract. A key issue apparently was resolved when the owners agreed to grant 17 percent of the players in a group with two to three years of big-league service the right to have their salaries determined by arbitration. The late start of spring training forced a week's delay in the beginning of the season, from April 2 to April 9. While the strung-out negotiations left all sides—owners, players and fans—with a bad taste in their mouths, the baseball world coped. It didn't cope so well earlier in the off-season when, on Christmas night, news bulletins disclosed the death of Billy Martin, the combative former manager of the New York Yankees, in a one-vehicle crash outside Martin's Upstate New York home. Martin, 61, had been a fiery major league player for 11 years and served as a big-league manager for 16 seasons. While he played for and managed various other teams, Martin considered himself forever a Yankee. Having developed a love/hate relationship with Owner George Steinbrenner, he served five stints as the Yankees' manager.

TOM DIPACE

PRO FOOTBALL
1990



RICH PILLING/THE SPORTING NEWS

San Francisco quarterback Joe Montana **(previous page)** was spectacular, as usual, in leading the 49ers to their second straight Super Bowl championship, a 55-10 thrashing of the Denver Broncos at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans. Montana, who was sacked only once and rarely pressured by the Broncos' defense **(1)**, completed 22 of 29 passes for 297 yards and a record five touchdowns en route to winning Super Bowl Most Valuable Player honors for the third time in his career. He also took sole possession of all the major career Super Bowl passing marks, including completions (83), attempts (122), yards (1,142), touchdowns (11) and completion percentage (.680). Perhaps more remarkably, Montana has never been intercepted in Super Bowl competition. San Francisco's fourth Super Bowl title tied a record set by the Pittsburgh Steelers a decade earlier. But while the 49ers' latest Super Bowl conquest was both awesome and admirable, the loss continued the Broncos' agony in the National Football League's big game. Denver's fourth Super Bowl defeat tied the Minnesota Vikings' record for most losses and marked the third time in four years that the Broncos were routed by the National Football Conference representative. And, for Denver fans, the games only grow worse: from a 19-point loss to the New York Giants in Super Bowl XXI (39-20) to a 32-point loss to Washington in Super Bowl XXII (42-10) and, finally, to a 45-point loss to the 49ers—the largest margin in Super Bowl history. A revamped Denver defense that did not allow more than 28 points in a game during the regular season was scorched for 27 points by the 49ers in the first half alone. San Francisco's eight touchdowns set a single-game Super Bowl record.

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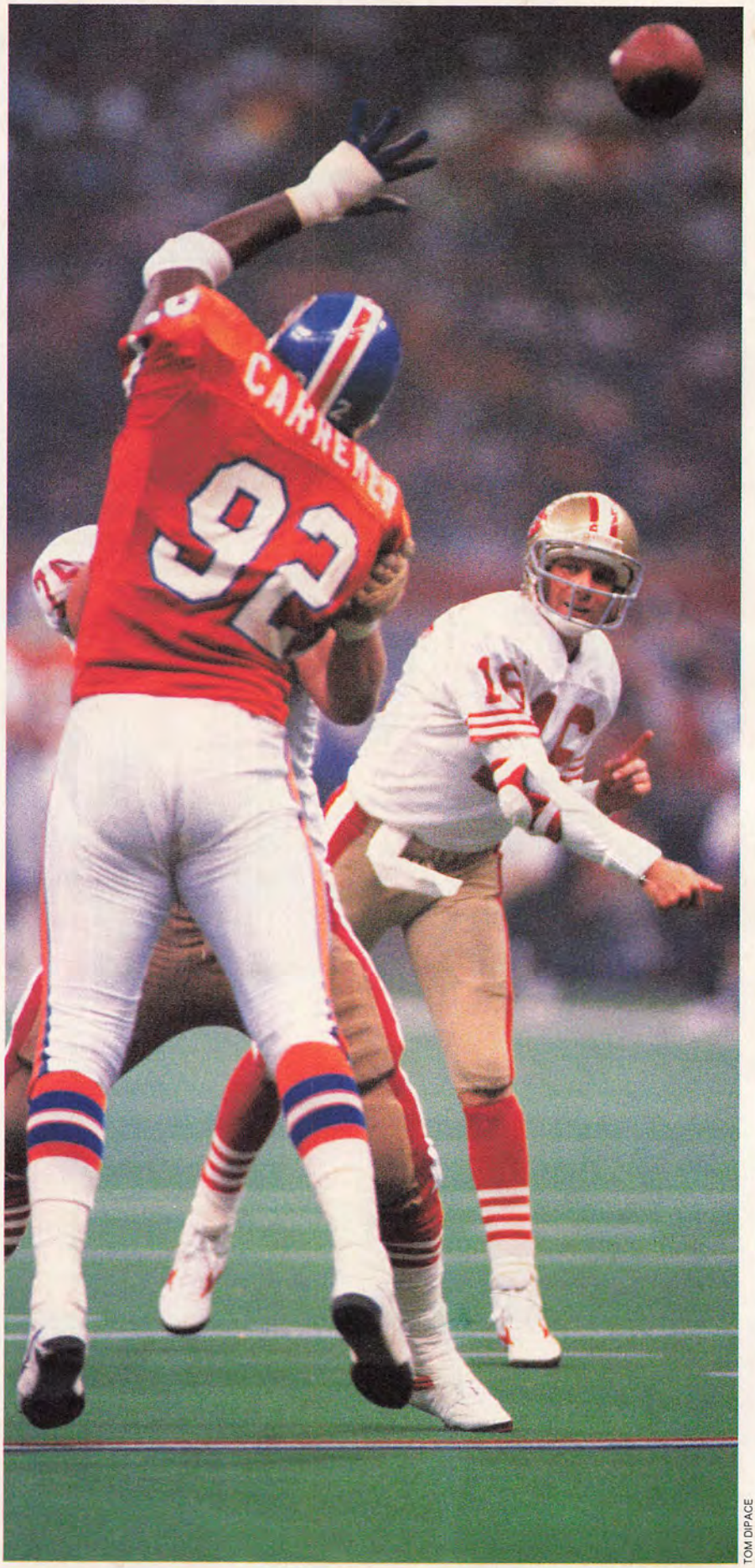

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San Francisco wide receiver Jerry Rice **(1)** left an imprint on Super Bowl XXIV that was almost as great as Joe Montana's. Rice, a former Super Bowl MVP himself, caught a record three touchdown passes against the Broncos, including a 38-yarder in the final minute of the first half that increased San Francisco's lead to 27-3 at the intermission. That touchdown accounted for the longest of Rice's seven catches for a total of 148 yards.

The Broncos' futility was embodied by quarterback John Elway **(2)**, who was hurried and harassed by a relentless 49er defense all afternoon. Elway completed just 10 of 26 passes for 108 yards, his lowest full-game passing production in more than two years. He also was intercepted twice and sacked six times while failing for the third time in four years to bring the Mile High City its first NFL championship.

New NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue **(3)** hit the ground running in his first full year after succeeding Pete Rozelle as the league's top man in October 1989. His first accomplishment: negotiating a four-year, $3.64 billion television contract with ABC, CBS, NBC, ESPN and TBS that would boost the annual television revenue for each NFL team from $17 million to $32 million. Tagliabue, who had worked on NFL matters for 20 years as an attorney before becoming commissioner, also increased the league's 16-game regular season to 17 weeks in 1990 and '91 and to 18 weeks in '92 and '93; strengthened the league policy against drug use; declared college juniors eligible for the regular draft; instituted measures designed to shorten games, and announced that the NFL intended to expand—and realign itself—no later than 1993.

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RON VESELY

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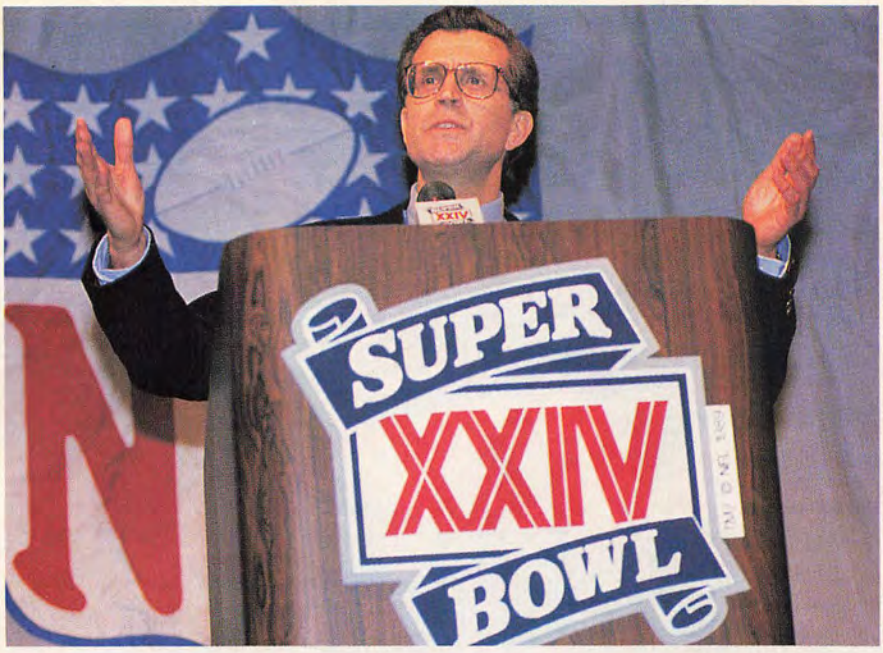

RON VESELY

RON VESELY

THEY SAID IT

Former Notre Dame quarterback **Tony Rice**, a third-stringer with the Saskatchewan Roughriders, on being designated an "import" by the Canadian Football League: "It makes me feel like beer or something."

Karl Mecklenburg, on his latest position shift with the Denver Broncos: "From noseguard to defensive end to inside linebacker to outside linebacker. I'm moving right up the evolutionary ladder."

Chicago Bears defensive tackle **Dan Hampton**, who has undergone knee surgery 10 times in his career: "I don't want to confuse anybody with all these scars. I've got color-coded stitches so the autopsy will be a lot easier for everybody."

Lyle Alzado, on his plans to come out of retirement at the age of 41 and try to play defensive end again for the Los Angeles Raiders: "I was a violent player, and I miss that. I can't drive around the streets and pull people out of their cars and beat the hell out of them."

St. Petersburg Times columnist **Gary Shelton**, after the Tampa Bay Buccaneers waived their veteran place-kicker: "Cutting Donald Igwebuike because his kickoffs weren't long enough is like divorcing Christie Brinkley because she can't dance."

Two of pro football's brightest stars heading into the 1990s were both running backs: Detroit's Barry Sanders **(1)** and Kansas City's Christian Okoye **(2)**. The two players led their respective conferences in rushing in 1989—Sanders with 1,470 yards in the NFC and Okoye with 1,480 in the American—and now face the daunting task of helping two long-suffering NFL franchises restore their past glory. The Lions haven't posted a winning record or made the playoffs since 1983, while the Chiefs have made only one postseason appearance in 19 years. In 1988, Sanders became only the eighth junior in history to win the Heisman Trophy after he set 13 NCAA Division I-A season records playing for Oklahoma State. Okoye, who was probably more adept at track and field (in the discus, hammer and shot put) while in college than football, was nevertheless a two-time NAIA football All-America at Azusa Pacific. Sanders and Okoye, however, are as different in stature as they are similar in football productivity: Sanders is 5-foot-8, 200 pounds, while Okoye is 6-1, 260.

1

LONNIE MAJOR/ ALLSPORT USA

2

MITCHELL LAYTON

The year 1990 was memorable for what happened off the gridiron as well as on it. Former All-Pro defensive end Dexter Manley **(1)**, who was banned from the NFL by Commissioner Paul Tagliabue in November 1989 for substance-abuse violations, had his bid for reinstatement rejected by Tagliabue last summer.

Indianapolis running back Eric Dickerson **(2)** created headlines throughout the year as a result of constant bickering with Colts management. The league's leading active rusher felt unloved, unappreciated and underpaid—particularly the latter—and let everyone within earshot know it. He tried to renegotiate his $1.45 million 1990 salary to upward of $2 million and, failing that, missed all of training camp and the Colts' first six games of the regular season.

Perhaps the biggest non-story involved former Pro Bowl defensive end Lyle Alzado **(3, at left with Los Angeles Raiders Owner Al Davis)**, who tried to make a comeback with the Raiders at age 41 after not having played in the NFL for five seasons. Alzado abandoned his comeback bid by announcing his return to retirement in late August.

Two coaches, Jimmy Johnson **(4)** and Jerry Glanville **(5)**, also were in the headlines throughout the year. Johnson, who was struggling to return the Dallas Cowboys to their former lofty perch after a disastrous 1-15 season in 1989, had a brief war of words with his former quarterbacks coach, Jerry Rhome, when Rhome left Dallas for Phoenix in the off-season. Glanville, meanwhile, made plenty of news when he and the Houston Oilers had a mutual parting of the ways just six days after the Oilers suffered a 26-23 overtime loss to Pittsburgh in the AFC wild-card game. Glanville was not out of work long, however, popping up eight days later in Atlanta as the Falcons' new head man.

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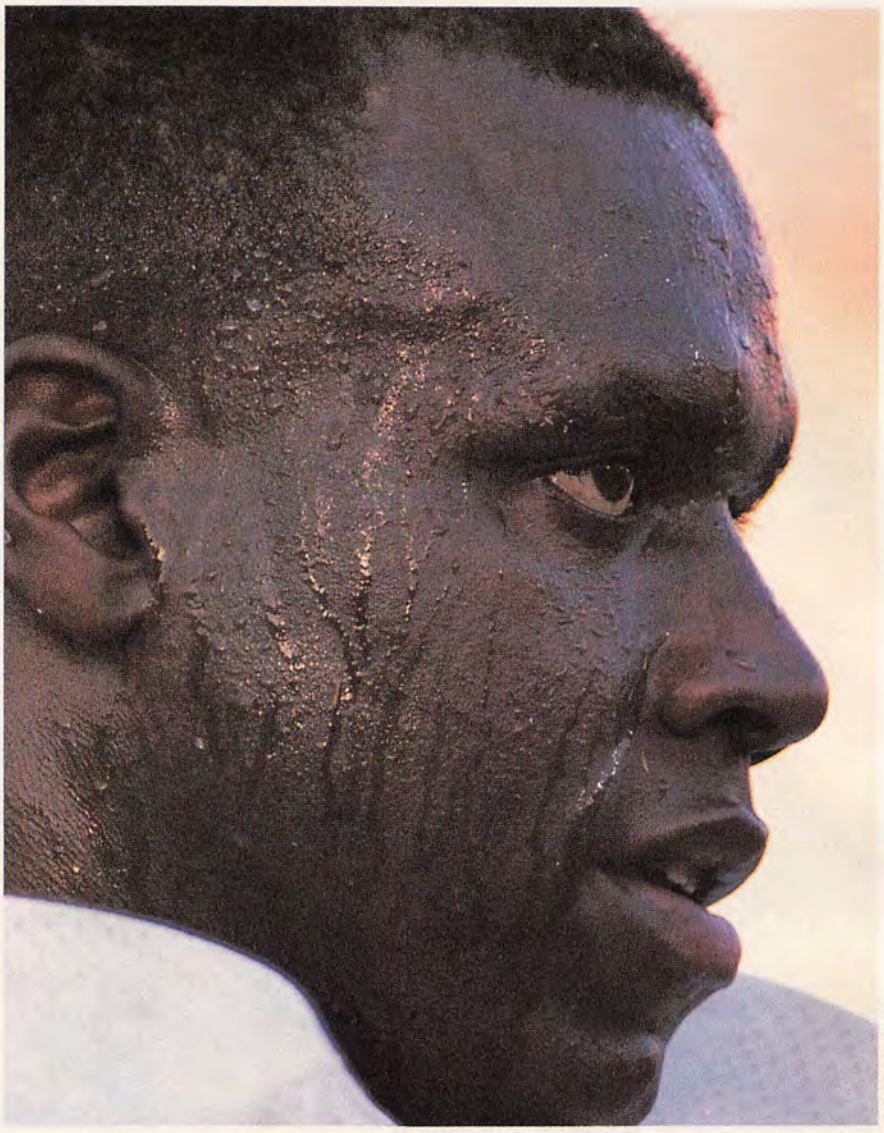

JOHN McDONOUGH

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JOHN McDONOUGH

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KEN LEVINE/ALL SPORT USA

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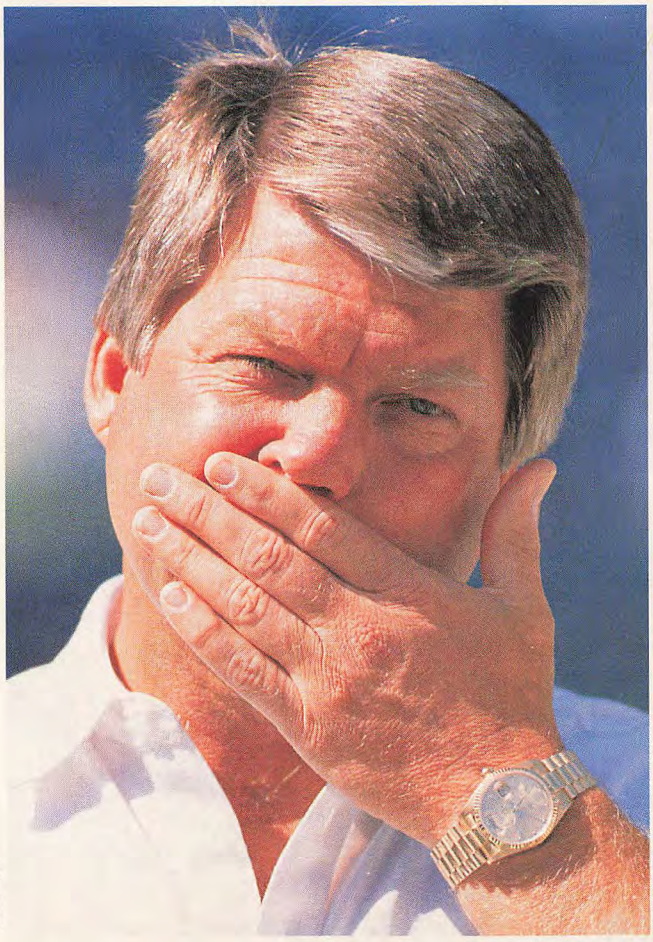

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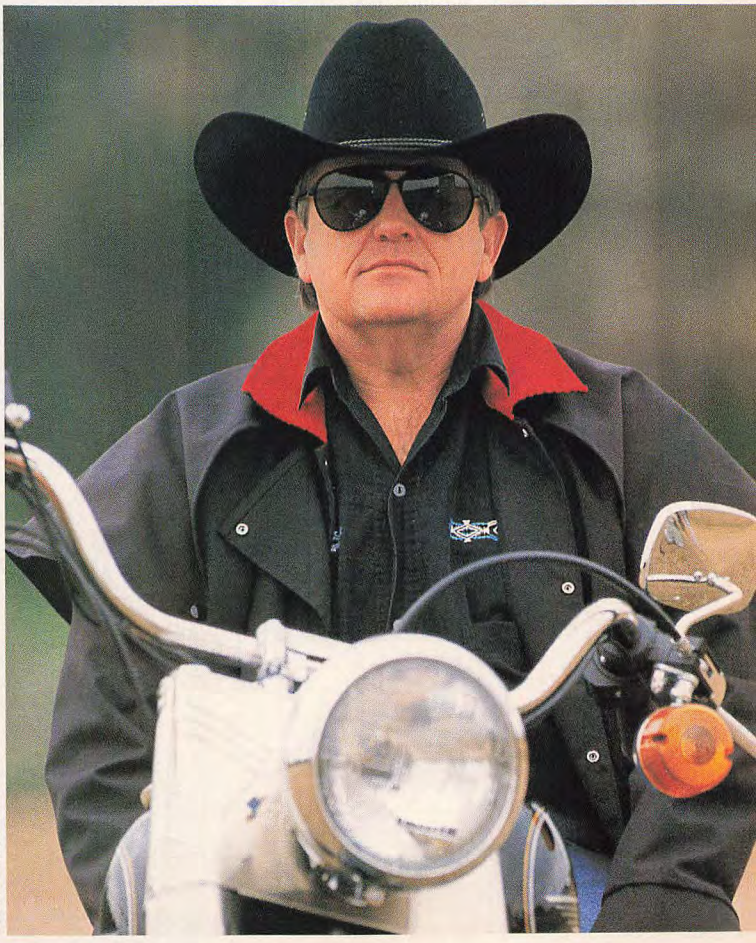

SCOTT CUNNINGHAM

The dawning of a new decade brought about a sort of changing of the guard in pro football. Departing the scene as the 1980s drew to a close was Seattle's Steve Largent **(2)**, who retired as the NFL's all-time leader in four receiving categories: catches (819), yards (13,089), touchdowns (100) and consecutive games with at least one reception (177). Largent, whose charitable contributions to the Seattle community were as noteworthy as his accomplishments on the field, played all 14 seasons of his pro career in the Pacific Northwest.

It had been a long time since Green Bay fans had as much to cheer as they did in 1989. In his first season as a starter, quarterback Don Majkowski **(1)** guided the Packers to their best record (10-6) in 17 years. The "Majik Man" threw 27 touchdown passes, led the league with 4,318 passing yards and gave Packers fans everywhere the hope that their team finally might be on the rebound. As a sign of the times, however, Majkowski became embroiled in a lengthy contract squabble in the off-season. The ensuing stalemate lasted six weeks and forced Majkowski to miss the Packers' 1990 opener.

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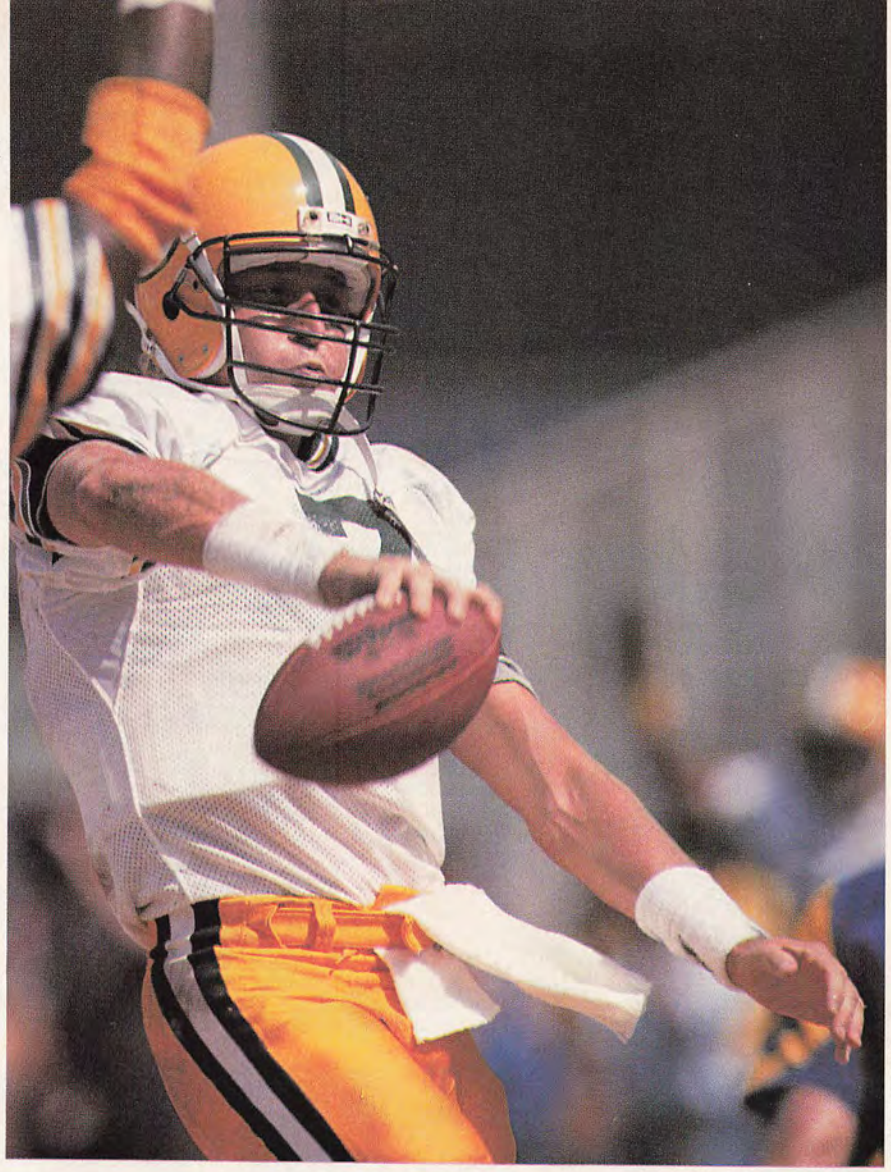

JOHN McDONOUGH

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FOCUS ON SPORTS

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

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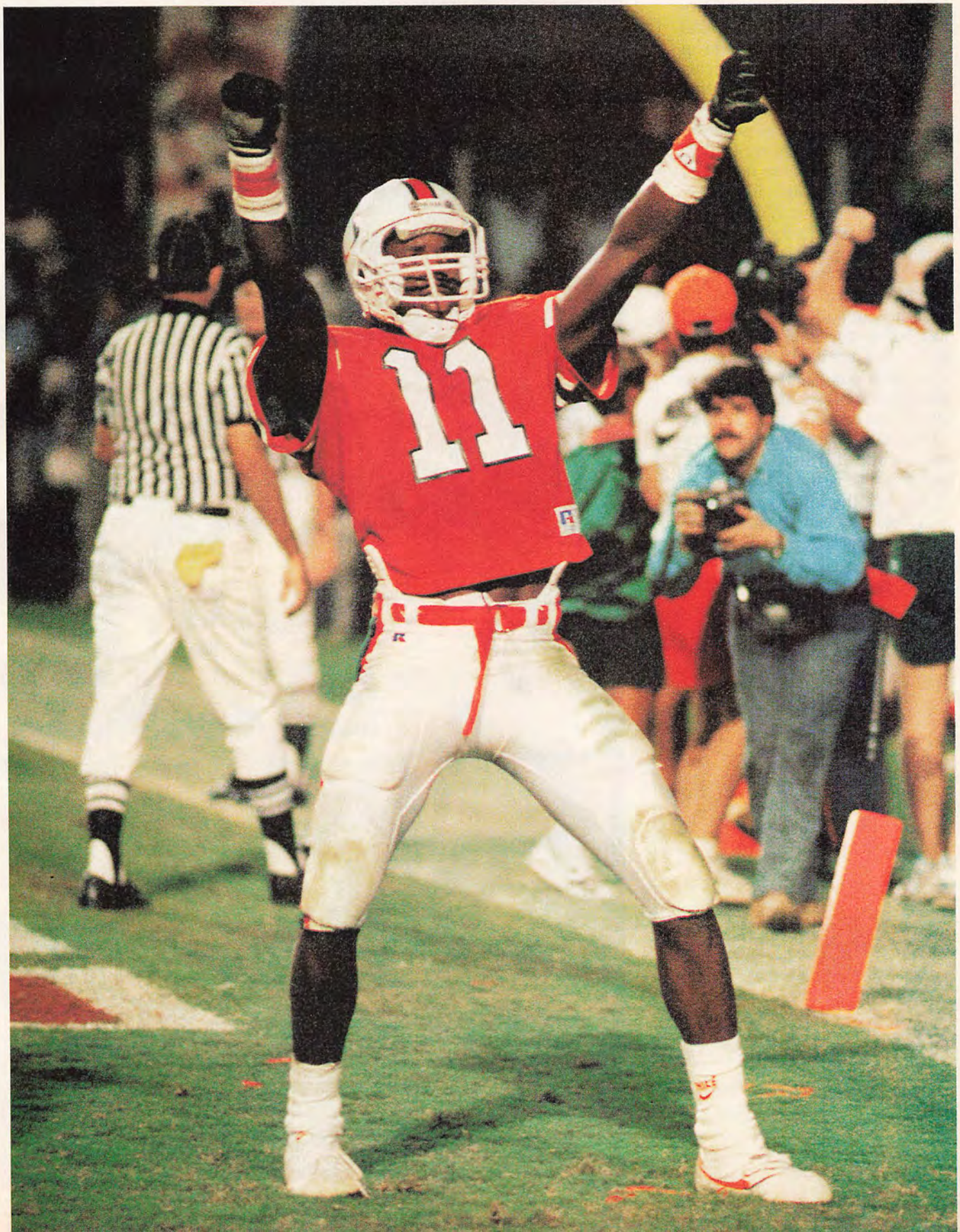

BOB ROSATO

Top-ranked Notre Dame's 23-game winning streak—and the opportunity to control its fate in the hunt for the mythical national championship—were shattered when the Fighting Irish fell to Miami (Fla.) in November 1989. Miami, which had suffered its only regular-season loss a month earlier to Florida State, solidified its national title position with a 27-10 victory at the Orange Bowl. The seventh-ranked Hurricanes never trailed, although Notre Dame did score 10 unanswered points in the second quarter—on a 22-yard field goal by Billy Hackett **(1)** and linebacker Ned Bolcar's 49-yard interception return for a touchdown—to knot the score at 10. Miami then added a touchdown just before the intermission and never looked back. Dale Dawkins **(previous page)** caught two touchdown passes for the Hurricanes, the second on a 22-play drive that ate up almost 11 minutes of the third-quarter clock and put the Irish in a 24-10 hole. "That was the longest drive I've ever been associated with," Hurricanes Coach Dennis Erickson said.

1

RICH PILLING/THE SPORTING NEWS

Notre Dame's November loss to Miami put Colorado in the driver's seat to win the 1989 national championship on New Year's Day. The Buffaloes entered their Orange Bowl battle against Notre Dame with an 11-0 ledger and a No. 1 ranking, so a victory over the Irish would guarantee the Buffs their first national title. A Notre Dame win, however, would put the Irish back in the running for their second consecutive championship, especially if Alabama managed to beat Miami in the Sugar Bowl. Fullback Anthony Johnson **(2)** and the Irish did their part by crushing Colorado, 21-6, but they got no help from the Crimson Tide, which fell to Miami, 33-25. The 11-1 Hurricanes got the nod from the pollsters, capturing their second national title in three years and their third in the 1980s. Notre Dame still enjoyed a stellar 12-1 campaign, highlighted by a 28-24 win over Southern California. The game was considered among the best in college football in 1989, and USC's Brent Parkinson and Notre Dame's Bob Dahl **(1)** epitomized the typical hand-to-hand struggle that ensues when the two rivals meet. The fabled "luck of the Irish" helped Notre Dame overcome five turnovers and rally from a 24-21 fourth-quarter deficit.

Although a national championship did not ride on the 1990 Rose Bowl tilt between Southern Cal and Michigan, the game did mark the end of an era. Wolverines Coach Bo Schembechler concluded his storied career with a 17-10 loss to the Trojans. Schembechler tainted his last hurrah by storming onto the field in the game's waning seconds to protest a call, incurring a 15-yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty. But no one can deny Bo knew football; he compiled a 234-65-8 mark in 27 years on the sidelines. Schembechler quickly resurfaced near foul lines, assuming the presidency of baseball's Detroit franchise **(3, with Tigers Manager Sparky Anderson)**.

1

JONATHAN DANIEL/ALLSPORT USA

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3

JOHN WILLIAMSON

BOB ROSATO

THEY SAID IT

Political columnist **George Will**, who authored "Men At Work," a book about baseball, on why he believes football will never replace baseball as the national pastime: "Football features two of the worst parts of American life—violence punctuated by committee meetings."

Penn State Coach **Joe Paterno**, whose Nittany Lions received a team-of-the-decade award for the 1980s at the Philadelphia sportswriters' dinner, on the changes in college athletics: "I remember when Notre Dame used to be an academic institution. Now it's a bank."

Illinois Coach **John Mackovic**, on his visit to the Florida home of legendary Illini star Red Grange during his team's trip to Orlando for the 1990 Florida Citrus Bowl: "One of the things I did was give him a football autographed by our players. When I handed him the ball, his eyes lit up and his hand just fit around it. I thought for a minute he was going to tuck it under one arm and take off."

Mike Pfeifer, a 6-7, 300-pound senior offensive tackle at Kentucky in 1989, after attending the National Football League scouting combine in Indianapolis: "These few days are like a Miss America contest for us. They take our measurements and decide our potential."

It was bound to happen sooner or later, and the time finally arrived February 16. In an announcement that surprised no one, National Football League Commissioner Paul Tagliabue opened the door for underclassmen to apply for the league's regular spring draft. Ever since the mid-1920s, when league owners passed the so-called "Red Grange Rule" to prohibit teams from signing a player before his college class had graduated, the NFL had refrained from drafting players with remaining collegiate eligibility. Faced with the prospect of having antitrust lawsuits filed against his league to overturn the policy, though, Tagliabue reluctantly agreed to open the draft to any junior or redshirt sophomore who signed an affidavit prior to March 22 in which he irrevocably renounced his remaining collegiate playing eligibility. The impact of the ruling was immediate. By the time of the April draft, 38 underclassmen had declared for it. Although the decision backfired on some players—former West Virginia star quarterback Major Harris, for example, wasn't selected until the final round, and others weren't drafted at all—a few players took advantage of the new rule. Southern Cal linebacker Junior Seau (**1**), for instance, was taken by San Diego with the fifth overall pick of the draft. Other underclassmen taken in the first round were Florida running back Emmitt Smith (**2**), drafted by Dallas; Southern Cal safety Mark Carrier (**3**), chosen by Chicago, and Houston quarterback Andre Ware (**4**), the 1989 Heisman Trophy winner who was taken by Detroit. None of the four made an immediate impact in the pro ranks, but all were expected to become solid NFL players.

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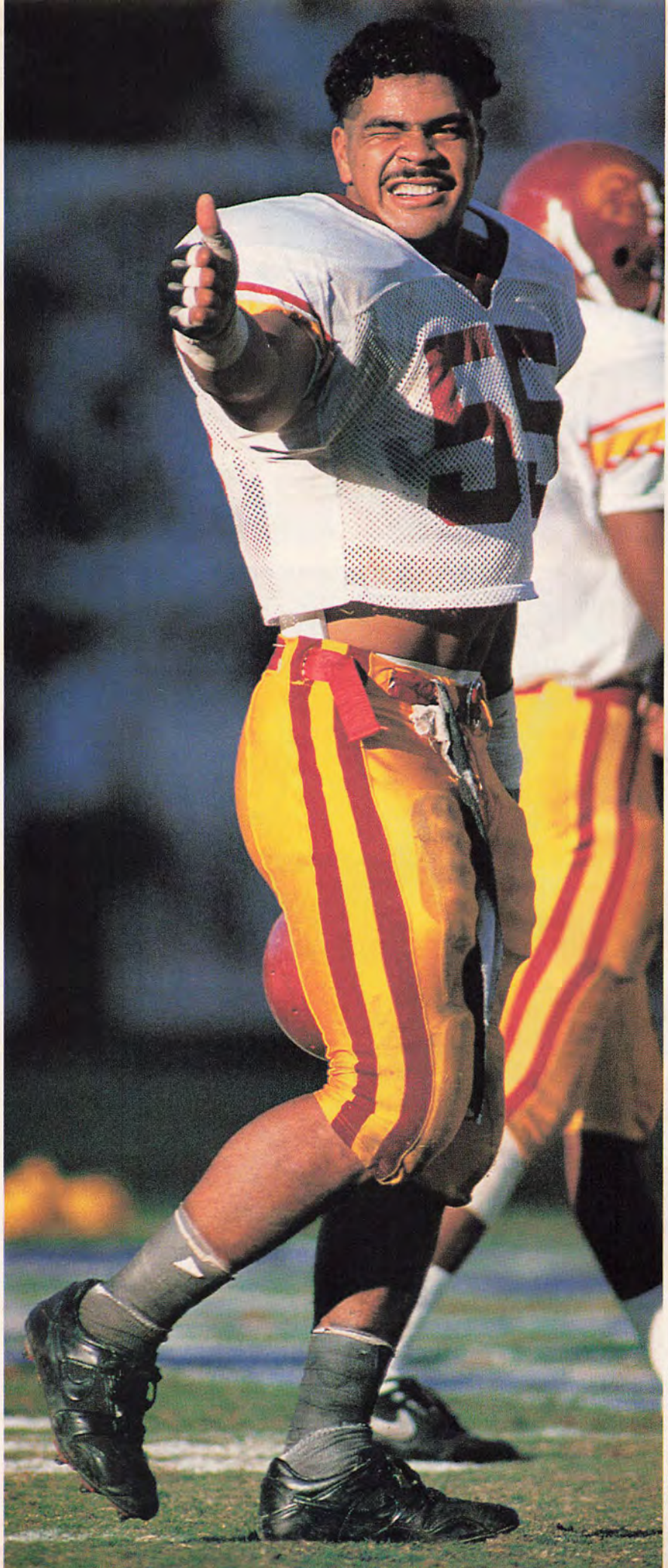

ROBERT BECK/ALLSPORT USA

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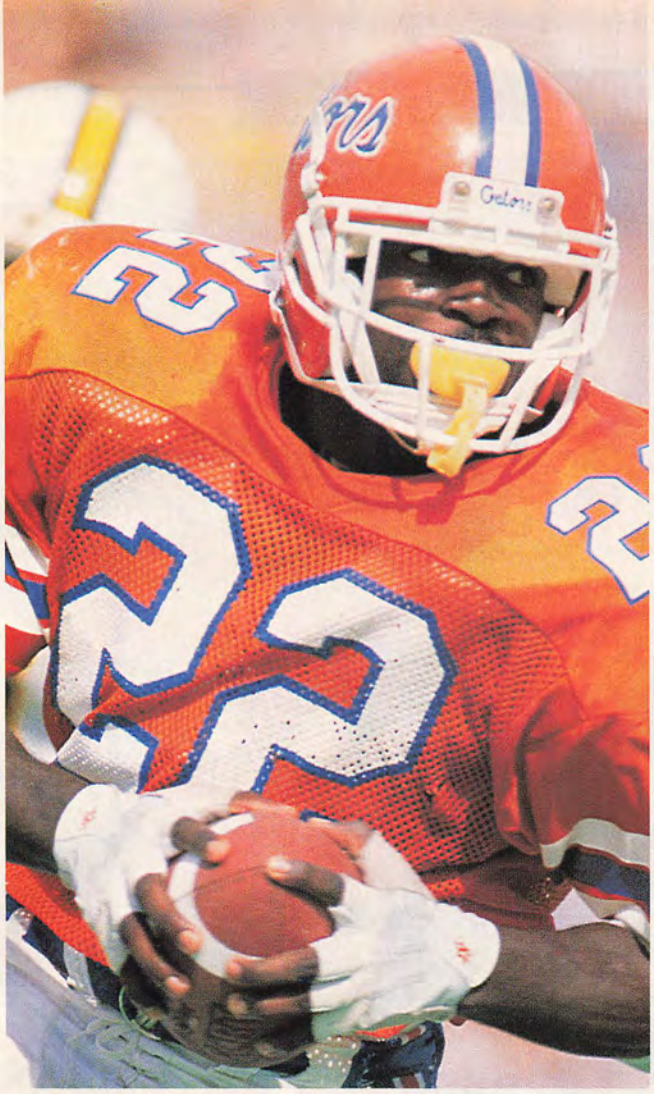

TOM DIPACE

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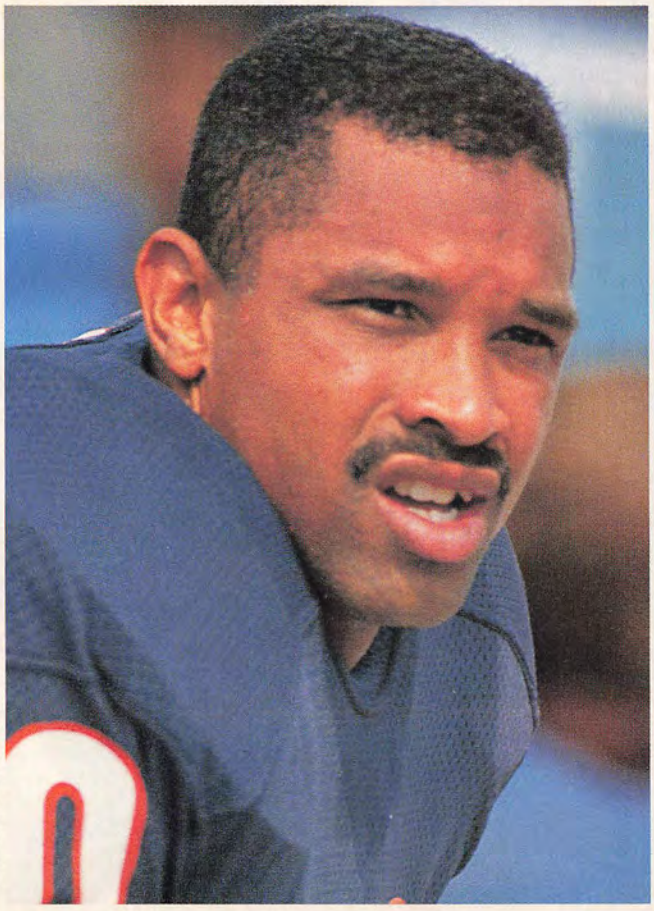

JONATHAN DANIEL / ALLSPORT USA

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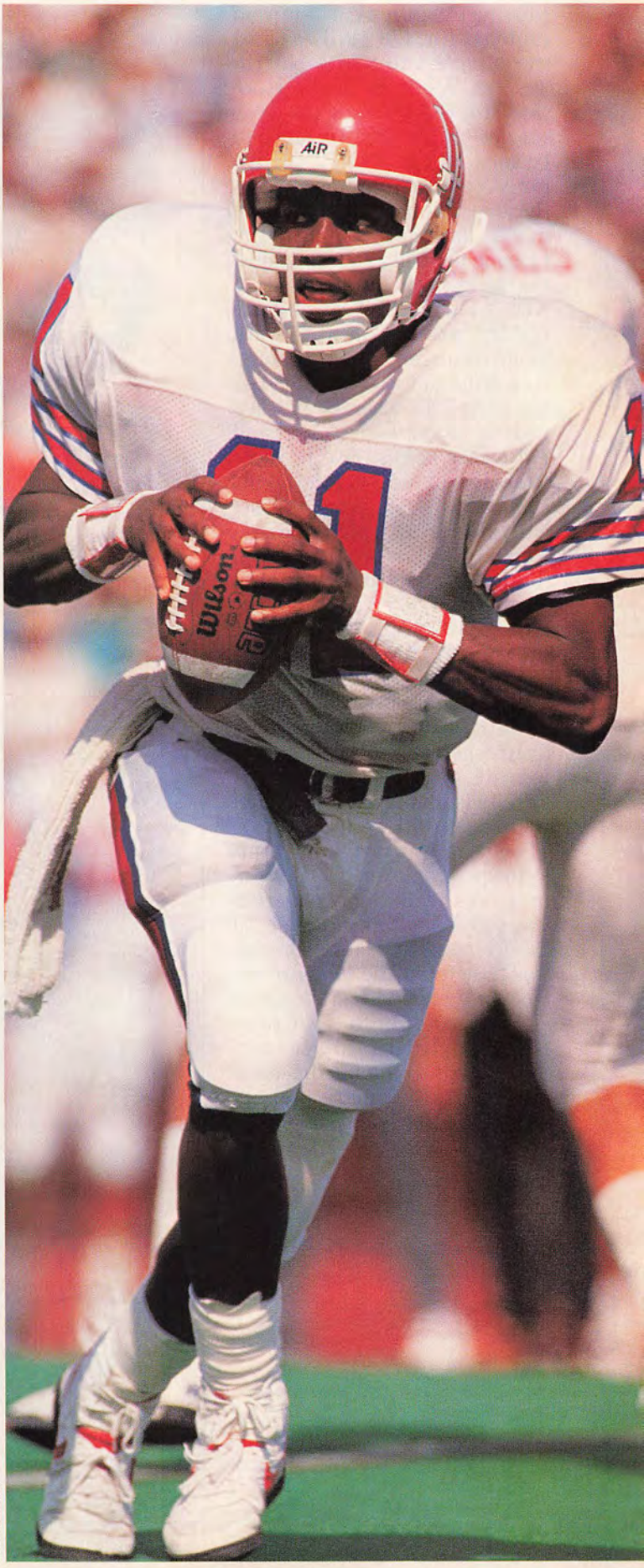

ALLSPORT USA

Indiana's Anthony Thompson rambled for 178 yards against the purple-and-white Northwestern Wildcats in the Hoosiers' fourth game of the 1989 season—an impressive total, to be sure. But, incredibly, the figure wasn't even half as good as the one Thompson amassed a month later against Wisconsin. Lugging the ball 52 times against the Badgers, he established an NCAA Division I-A single-game rushing record with a 377-yard performance. The Hoosiers' standout set two other I-A marks in 1989 when he finished with 65 career touchdowns and 394 career points. Five of those touchdowns and 32 of the points came in the '89 game against Northwestern, which Indiana won by a 43-11 score. Thompson finished his four seasons at Indiana with 4,965 yards on the ground, which made him No. 5 on the all-time I-A rushing chart. The yardage also made the two-time consensus All-America an attractive pick in the NFL draft—he was the 31st choice overall, going to the Phoenix Cardinals as the sixth selection in the second round. While Thompson was plying his trade in the pro ranks in 1990, his impact on the Indiana program was still being talked about. In the five seasons before Thompson first toted the ball for the Hoosiers, Indiana had compiled a 15-40 record. In the four years that the gifted tailback performed for Indiana, the team posted a 27-19-1 mark and appeared in three bowl games.

JONATHAN DANIEL/ALLSPORT USA

HOOSIERS
N

Crimson Tide fans were thrilled when Gene Stallings **(1)** was named Alabama's new coach in January. They had just driven Bill Curry to Kentucky, where he no longer had to worry about the death threats he received for committing the grievous sins of losing three straight games to Auburn and not being an "Alabama man." Unlike Curry, Stallings seemingly had all the right stuff: previous head coaching experience on the college (Texas A&M) and pro (St. Louis/Phoenix Cardinals) levels, a charming personality, a Southern drawl and, most important, strong ties to Bear Bryant as both a player and assistant coach. Tuscaloosa welcomed Stallings like the prodigal son, but the Tide faithful apparently failed to check the numbers on his resume. In 11 years as a head coach, Stallings had one winning season to his credit. No matter. 'Bama fans had visions of national titles dancing in their heads as Stallings assumed command of a team that had lost only two games, including a Sugar Bowl matchup with eventual national champion Miami (Fla.), in Curry's last season. But the dream quickly became a nightmare. Alabama lost its first three games in 1990, a fate not suffered by a Crimson Tide team since 1956. Alabama finally registered a victory in week four against Vanderbilt, but by that time, Stallings was about as popular in Tide country as his predecessor.

George Allen **(2)** loves challenges, and he shouldered a mighty one when he came out of retirement to coach Long Beach State. The 72-year-old head coaching veteran of 12 NFL and two United States Football League seasons will try to revive a program that almost went bankrupt in 1986. Clemson greeted Allen, who last coached a college team at Whittier (Calif.) in 1956, with a 59-0 bruising in the 49ers' season opener. Like Stallings, Allen endured three losses before enjoying his first win (over Pacific).

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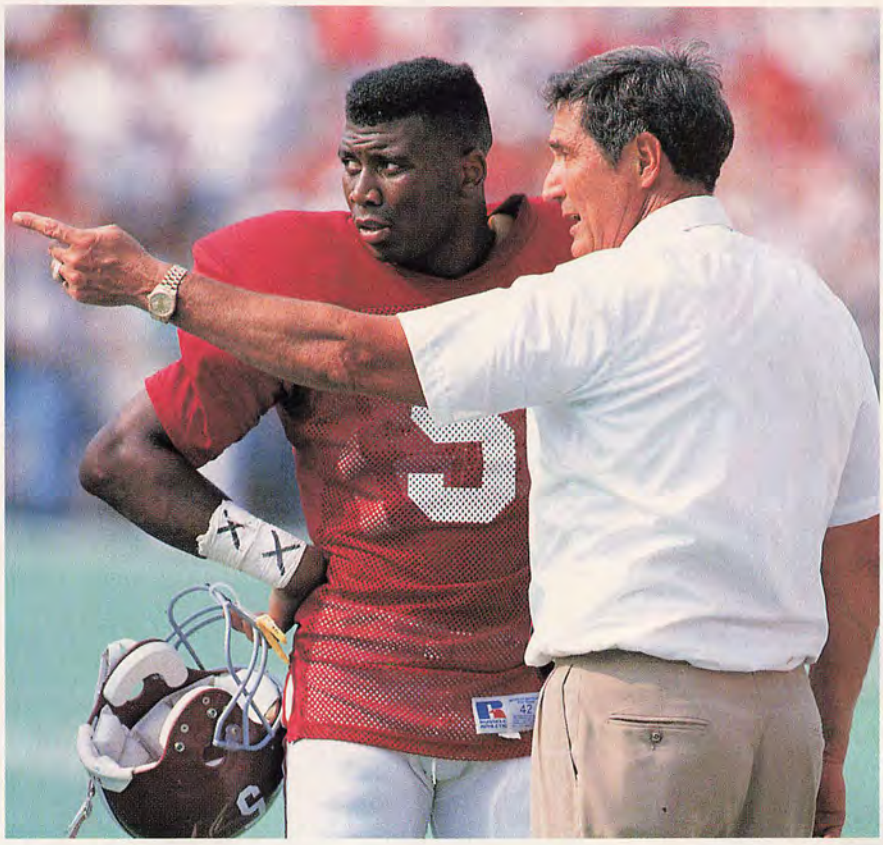

TOM DIPACE

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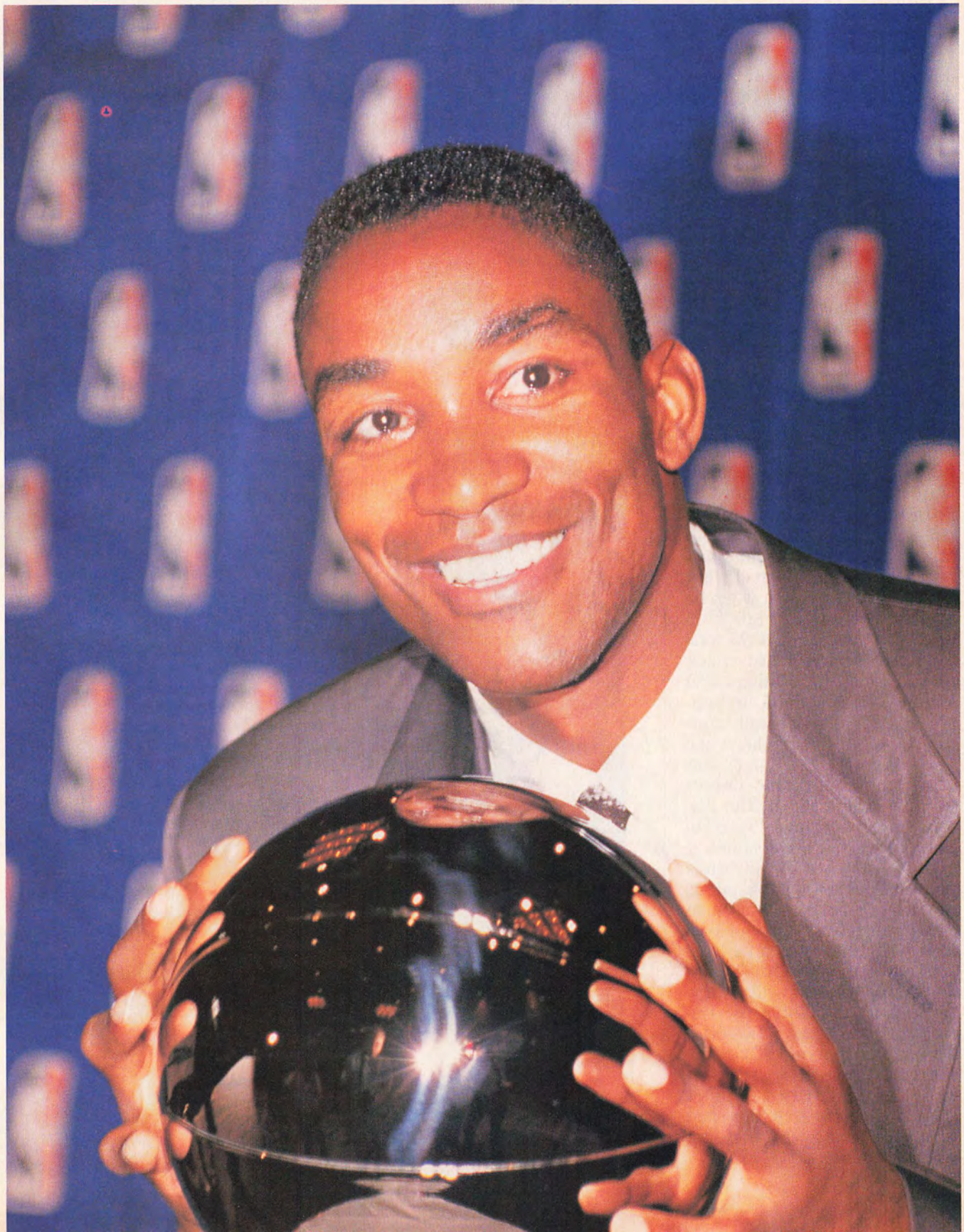
JON SOOHOO

PRO BASKETBALL
1990



NATHANIEL BUTLER

Call it a Daly Double. Coach Chuck Daly's Detroit Pistons won their second straight National Basketball Association title in 1990, becoming just the third franchise (after the Celtics and Lakers) to post back-to-back championships. Though they weren't quite as dominant as the year before, when their only postseason setbacks were a pair of losses to Chicago in the Eastern Conference finals, the Pistons clearly were the league's dominant team. After winning 59 regular-season games, the Pistons swept Indiana in the first round of the playoffs and ousted New York, four games to one, in the next. Chicago again gave the Pistons a battle, stretching the conference finals to seven games before succumbing. Detroit's last remaining obstacle was the Portland Trail Blazers, who turned some heads by winning Game 2 of the NBA Finals at Detroit. But the Pistons, led by Finals Most Valuable Player Isiah Thomas **(previous page)**, won three straight games at Portland—where their losing streak had dated to 1974—to capture the crown. Thomas was hot throughout the playoffs but especially in the Finals, when he averaged a series-high 27.6 points per game and set the tone for a lethal three-guard attack that included Joe Dumars and Vinnie Johnson. Bill Laimbeer **(2)** was his usual rough-and-tumble self in the middle, while Mark Aguirre **(1)**, James Edwards, John Salley and Dennis Rodman rounded out the Pistons' much-heralded "starting eight." The Trail Blazers made it exciting—they lost by only three points in Game 4 and two points in Game 5—but were unable to handle the Pistons' ferocious defense when they needed key baskets down the stretch. Thomas and Johnson, meanwhile, came through in the clutch for Detroit. "I have to give Detroit a tremendous amount of credit," Portland Coach Rick Adelman said. "In the last two minutes they made every shot they had to make. That's why they are world champions."

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ANDREW BERNSTEIN

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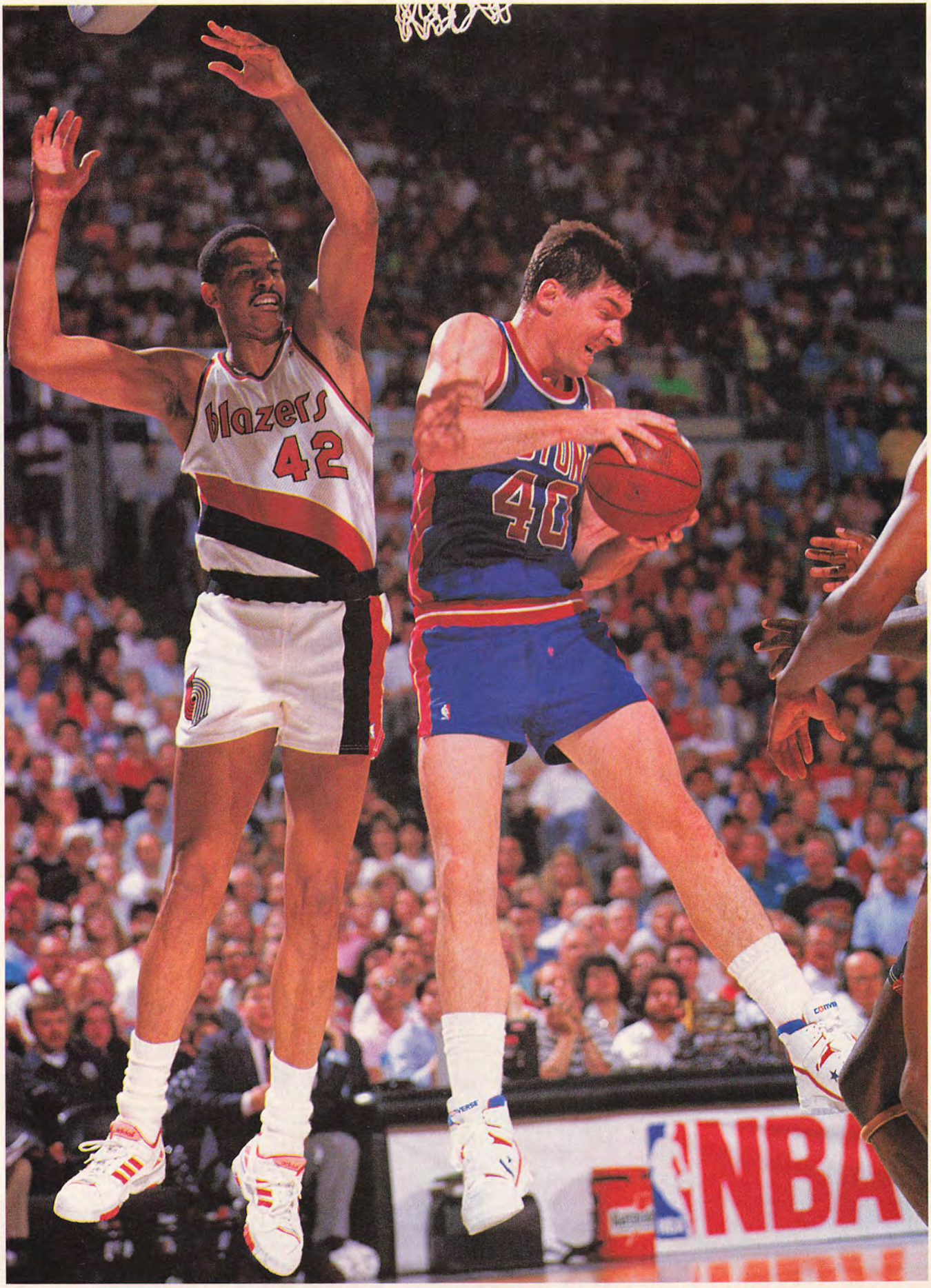

JOHN McDONOUGH

If the shoe fits, wear it. Chicago's Michael Jordan **(1, 2)** has found that the NBA's scoring title fits him just fine, and he wore it for the fourth consecutive season in 1989-90. He averaged 33.6 points per game, beating out Utah's Karl Malone (31-point average). His top performance came March 28 at Cleveland, where he tallied a career-high 69 points against the Cavaliers in an overtime game won by the Bulls. He also led the league in steals (2.77 per game) and almost singlehandedly put the Bulls within one game of the NBA Finals. Chicago fans like to think that their team fell one home game short of the NBA championship; the home team won every game in the Eastern Conference finals, but Detroit hosted four contests to the Bulls' three. Whether Chicago could have defeated the Trail Blazers in the Finals is debatable, but Jordan and the Bulls must wait at least one more year before they can entertain hopes of celebrating an NBA title.

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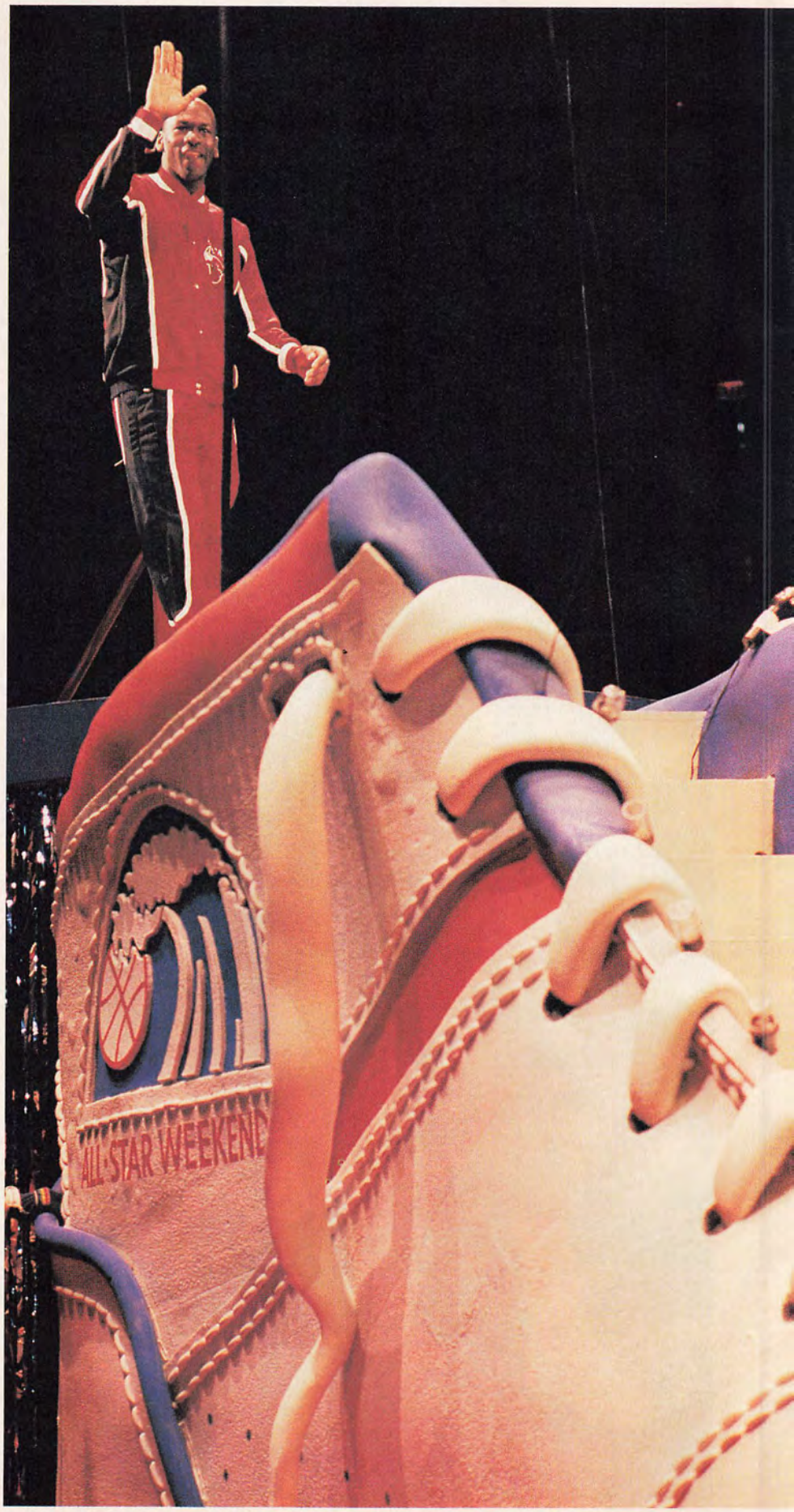

STEVE LIPOFSKY

2

ANDREW BERNSTEIN

He looks one way and passes the other, racking up assists that leave opponents chafing and fans cheering. He throws in bombs from three-point land and threads through traffic for layups. He rebounds and plays defense. In 1989-90 he did it all —except lead his team to an NBA championship. Magic Johnson **(2)**, the Los Angeles Lakers' 6-9 point guard, averaged 22.3 points, 6.6 rebounds, 11.5 assists and 1.67 steals per game and was named NBA Most Valuable Player for the second year in a row. "The bottom line," Lakers Coach Pat Riley said, "is that we lost the greatest player in history, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and we're better. That's testimony to Earvin Johnson." If the Lakers were better than the year before, though, they didn't look like it against Phoenix in the Western Conference semifinals. The Lakers, who had won two straight league titles before losing to Detroit in the 1989 NBA Finals, were bounced from the playoffs by the Suns, who needed only five games to win the best-of-seven series. Phoenix's triumph marked the first time in nine years that Los Angeles failed to reach the conference finals. The Suns, meanwhile, advanced in the playoffs to meet Portland, which won a hard-fought series, 4-2. Phoenix was led by third-year man Kevin Johnson **(1)**, who averaged 22.5 points and 11.4 assists per game and served notice that the Western Conference would boast another outstanding point guard named Johnson long after Magic retires.

The biggest news surrounding the Lakers after the season was the fate of their coach. Would he return for a 10th season? Or would he take his tailored suits and slick hairdo to the broadcast booth? The answer: neither. Riley **(3)** did resign as Lakers coach, but he accepted an offer from NBC to serve as studio host, not color commentator, for the network's newly acquired package of NBA games.

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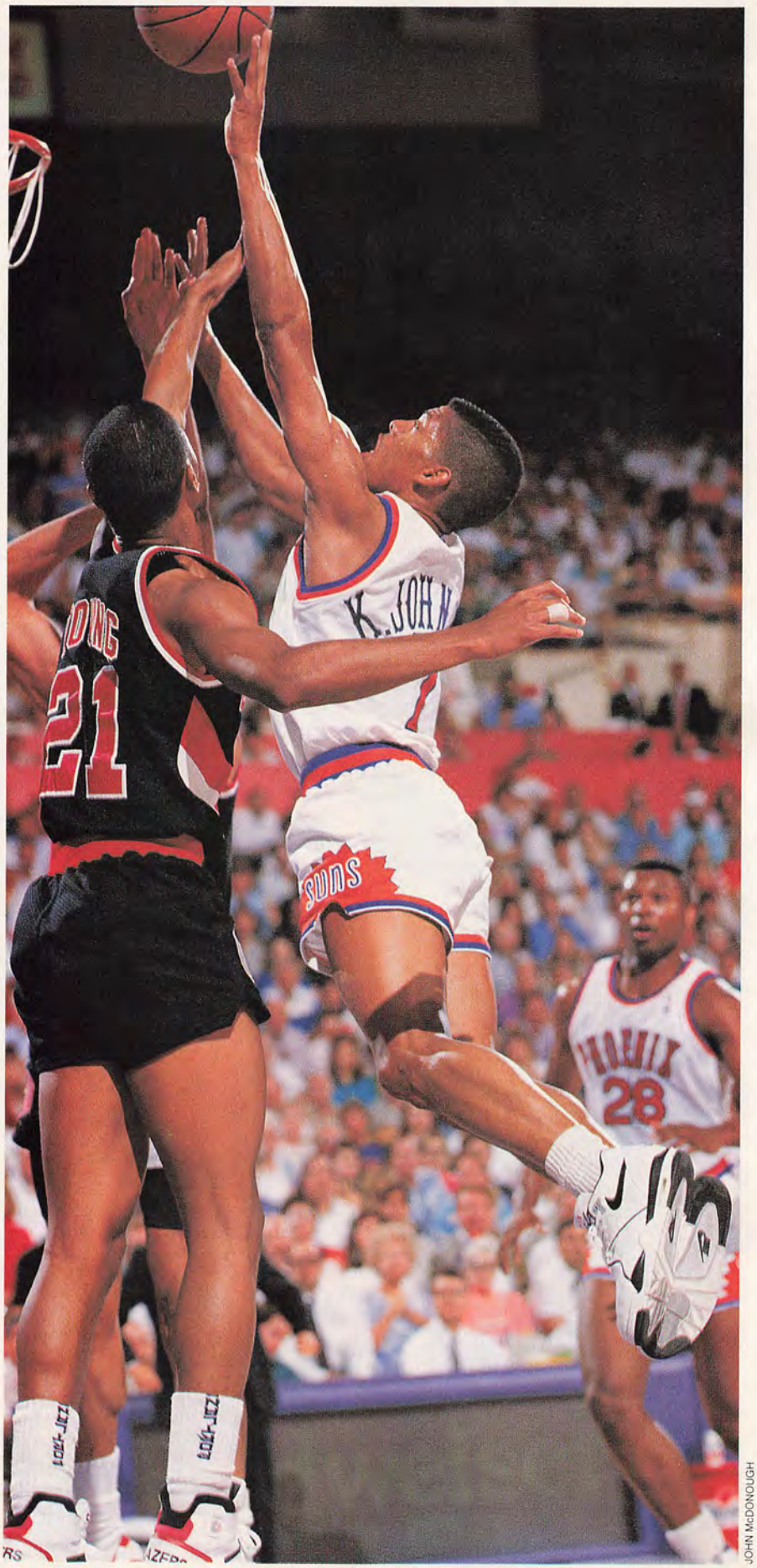

JOHN McDONOUGH

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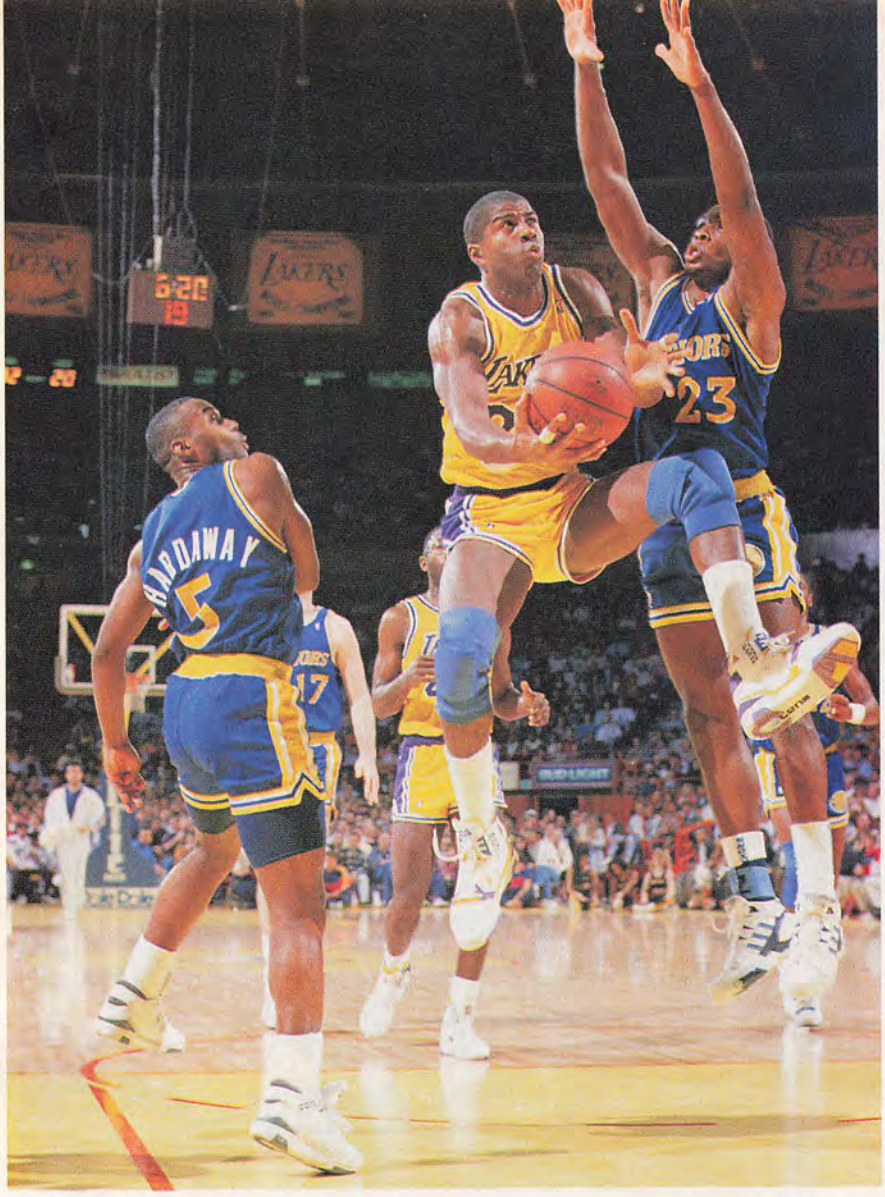

ANDREW BERNSTEIN

3

JOHN McDONOUGH

THEY SAID IT

Chicago Bulls superstar **Michael Jordan**, as his team headed into the NBA Eastern Conference finals against the Detroit Pistons: "I have two sprained ankles and they're both sore, so at least I don't have to worry about limping. Everything is still symmetrical."

Bulls guard **John Paxson**, on Pistons center Bill Laimbeer, who left Notre Dame after the 1978-79 season, the year before Paxson began playing for the Fighting Irish: "I'm glad we didn't play together. I'd hate to have any reason to like him."

Mark McNamara, a center/forward for the Los Angeles Lakers, on Yugoslavian teammate Vlade Divac, who finds various ways of communicating while he learns the English language: "Anytime you see him wink at you, you can be sure that he hasn't got a clue."

Jerry Reynolds, who was moving to Sacramento's front office as director of player personnel, on the 112-98 loss to Denver in his final game as coach of the Kings: "Basically, I wanted this to be a swan song, but it turned into a swan dive."

Miami Heat Coach **Ron Rothstein**, on the reception given center Rony Seikaly during a game in Detroit: "The Pistons were very hospitable to Rony. They welcomed him with open arms and closed arms and forearms."

The NBA has a salary cap, but it leaves plenty of room for club owners to award contracts that boggle the mind. Take Cleveland's John (Hot Rod) Williams **(1)**, for instance. Williams, a fine player who nevertheless started only 29 games in a year (1989-90) when many of his teammates were injured, became the highest-paid player in the league for 1990-91 when the Miami Heat signed the restricted free agent to a seven-year, $26.5 million offer sheet in August. The Heat, hoping to make it difficult for Cleveland to match its bid, promised much of the money up front; Williams' 1990-91 income reportedly includes a $4 million signing bonus and a $1 million salary. The Cavs thought long and hard before acting, but in the end they agreed to fork out the money and retain the services of their 6-11 backup forward, whose career-high 16.8 points per game tied for second on the team last season.

Two long years dragged by between David Robinson's selection by San Antonio as the first pick of the 1987 NBA draft and his Spurs debut. Robinson, the NCAA Division I-A Player of the Year at Navy in 1986-87, had a two-year naval commitment to serve before he could turn his thoughts from defending his country to defending the paint. San Antonio totaled only 52 victories in the two intervening years, but the 7-1 Robinson **(2)** rewarded Spurs fans for their patience by sparking the greatest single-season turnaround in league history. The Spurs won 56 games (35 more than the year before), captured the Midwest Division title and lost an overtime decision to Portland in the seventh game of a Western Conference semifinal playoff series. Robinson averaged 24.3 points, 12 rebounds and 3.9 blocks per game and easily won Rookie of the Year honors. After just one season, Robinson already ranks with Houston's Akeem Olajuwon and New York's Patrick Ewing as one of the game's greatest centers.

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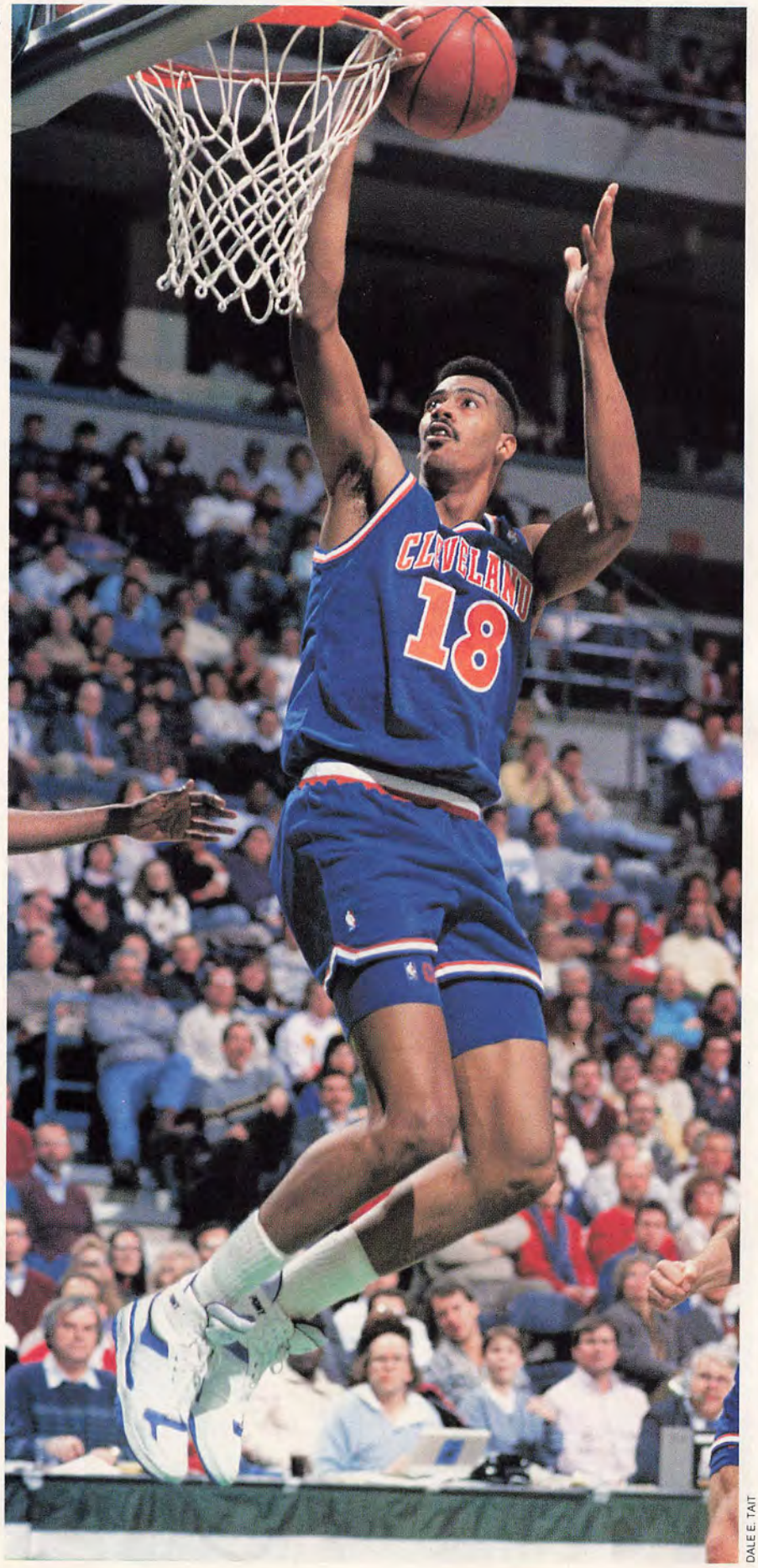

DALE E. TAIT

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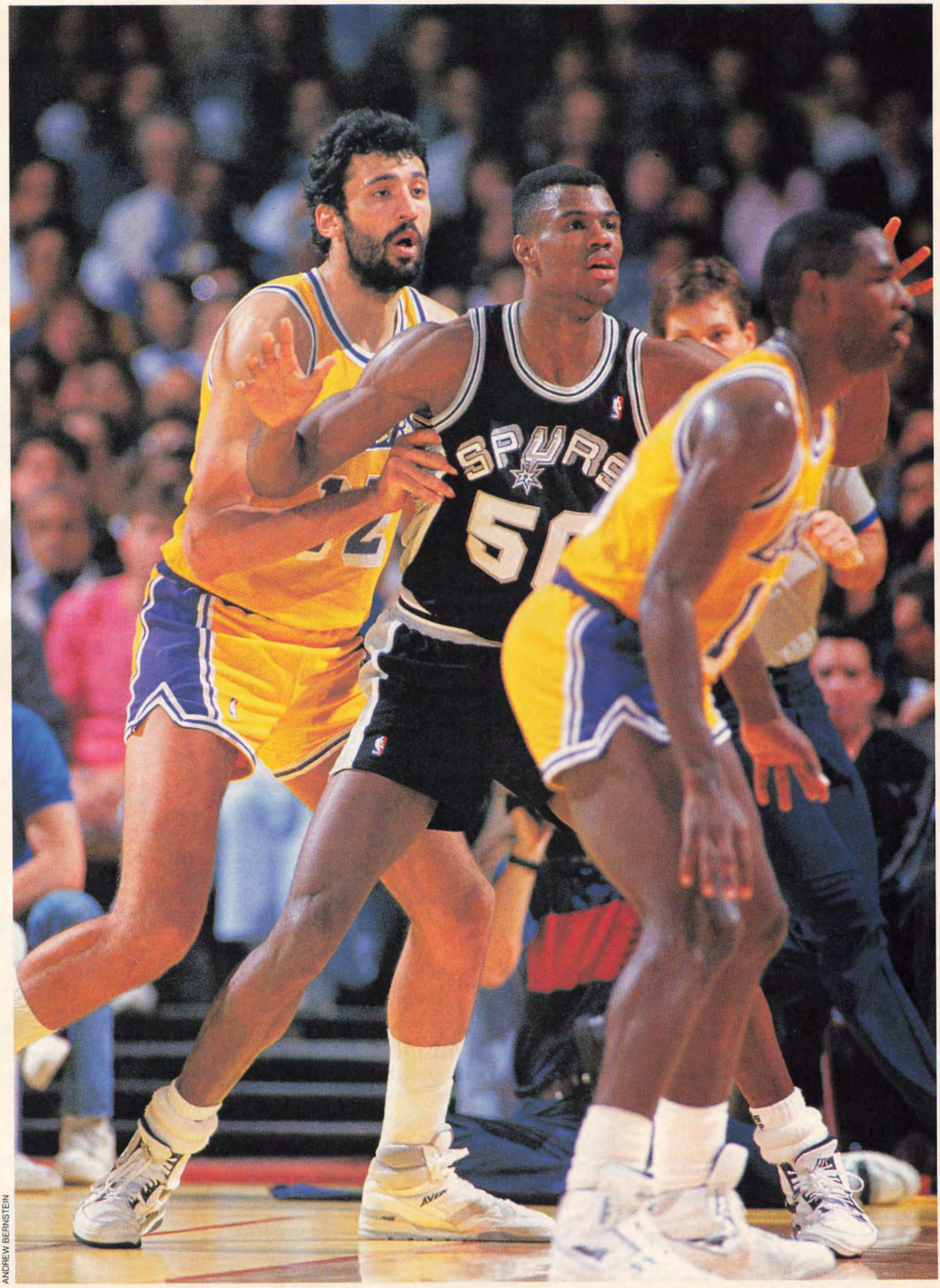

ANDREW BERNSTEIN

It's time to clean house when Boston fails to make the second round of the playoffs two years running, and that's what the Celtics did after last season. Despite the return of Larry Bird, who had missed most of the 1988-89 campaign following surgery on both heels, the Celtics were humiliated by New York in the first round of the playoffs. So, Jimmy Rodgers was ousted as coach (with three years remaining on his five-year contract) and Big East Conference Commissioner Dave Gavitt **(1, left)** was brought in to assume many of the personnel matters previously handled by President Red Auerbach **(1)**, Boston's legendary former coach. Their first run-in reportedly centered on Rodgers' replacement; Gavitt favored Duke Coach Mike Krzyzewski, while Auerbach reportedly wanted someone with NBA experience. They settled on Celtic assistant Chris Ford.

NBA Commissioner David Stern and Derrick Coleman **(2)** had lots to smile about last June. Earlier in the year, Stern had been awarded the fattest contract ever for the commissioner of any sport: a five-year package worth $10 million in bonuses and a $3.5 million annual salary. And Coleman, a powerful rebounder from Syracuse, had just been guaranteed future millions as the first pick of the NBA draft by the New Jersey Nets. Justice had been served several weeks before when New Jersey, owner of the league's worst 1989-90 record (17-65), won the NBA draft lottery and the opportunity to select Coleman.

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BRUCE SCHWARTZMAN

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FOCUS ON SPORTS

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

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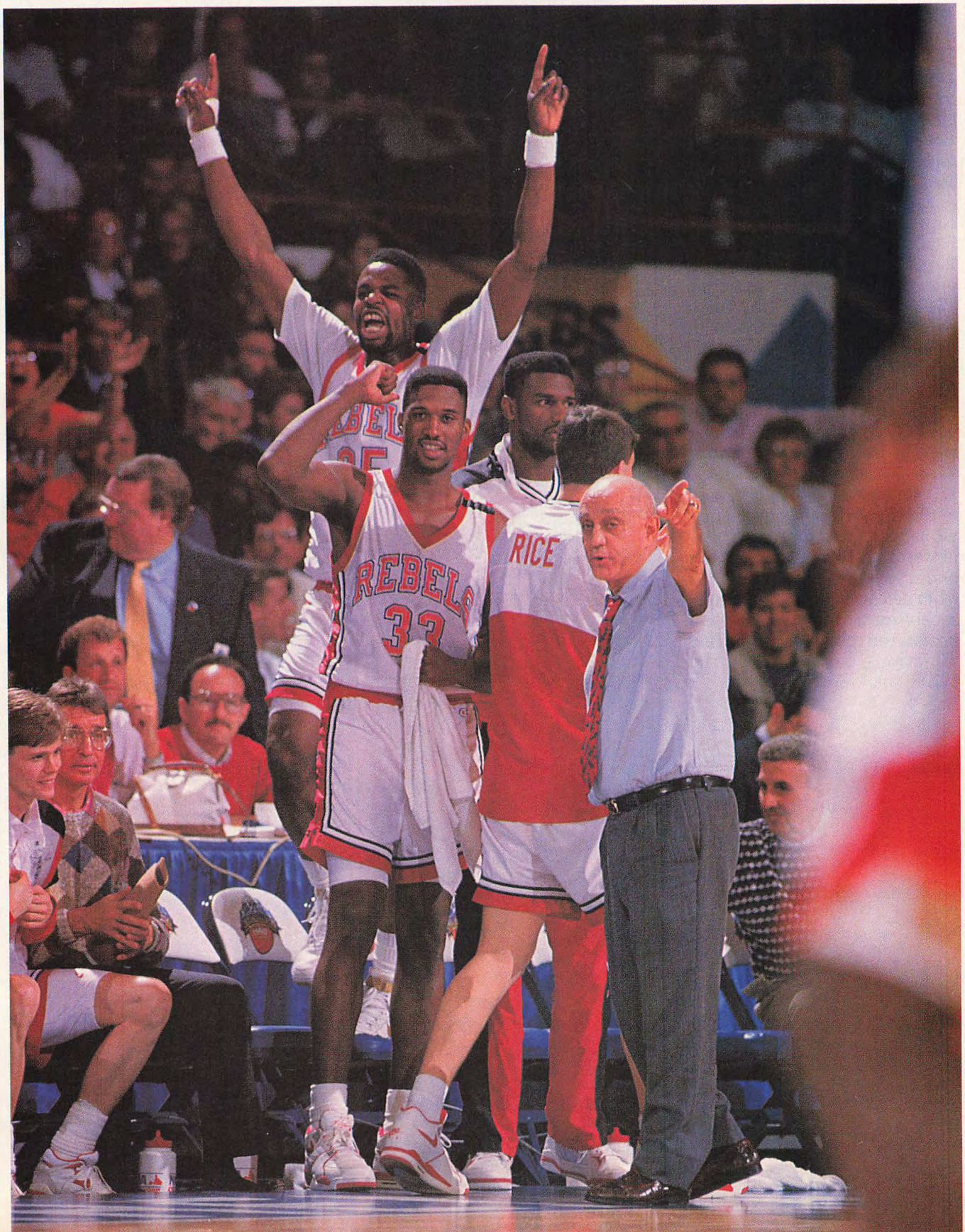

RICH CLARKSON

It was billed as a battle of "good" vs. "evil," but the 1990 NCAA championship game barely qualified as a scuffle. Sure, officials allowed the scholarly, upstanding Duke Blue Devils the courtesy of playing a full 40-minute game, but that only allowed those favorite sons of NCAA investigators, the UNLV Runnin' Rebels, to pile on the most lopsided defeat in championship game history, 103-73. While the Rebels joined together **(1)** to become the first team to hit the 100-point jackpot in a title game, Duke found itself coming apart during an 18-0 UNLV tear that stretched the Rebels' lead to 75-47 with 13 minutes to play. By the time UNLV Coach Jerry Tarkanian began emptying his bench with five minutes remaining, the celebration was already under way **(previous page)**. "If the NCAA comes to investigate us, we'll have Coach Tark put the trophy right in front of him," forward Larry Johnson said, noting the 11 visits investigators had paid to the UNLV campus in the previous nine months. Last July, however, UNLV became the second school ever to be prohibited from defending its national title, receiving a one-year ban on postseason play for recruiting violations committed in the 1970s.

1

JOHN McDONOUGH

Hank Gathers **(1)** was a tower of strength on the basketball floor, a relentless 6-foot-7 scoring forward who lived to get his shot at stardom in the National Basketball Association. But Hank Gathers also had an abnormal heartbeat, which doctors diagnosed only after the Loyola Marymount senior fainted on the court early into the 1989-90 schedule. Placed on medication to regulate his heartbeat, Gathers missed two games but gradually grew stronger and asked doctors to cut back his dosage. But on March 4, seconds after slamming home the end of an alley-oop pass for two points in the West Coast Conference Tournament, Gathers collapsed near midcourt. Less than two hours later, he was pronounced dead at age 23. In an emotional memorial service held less than one year after Gathers became only the second player ever to lead NCAA Division I in both scoring and rebounding, more than 5,000 friends and fans filled Loyola's Gersten Pavilion to pay their final respects **(2, 3)**. From there, with the memory of their fallen leader driving the team, the Lions knocked off defending national champion Michigan en route to the NCAA West Regional final, only to lose to eventual titlist UNLV.

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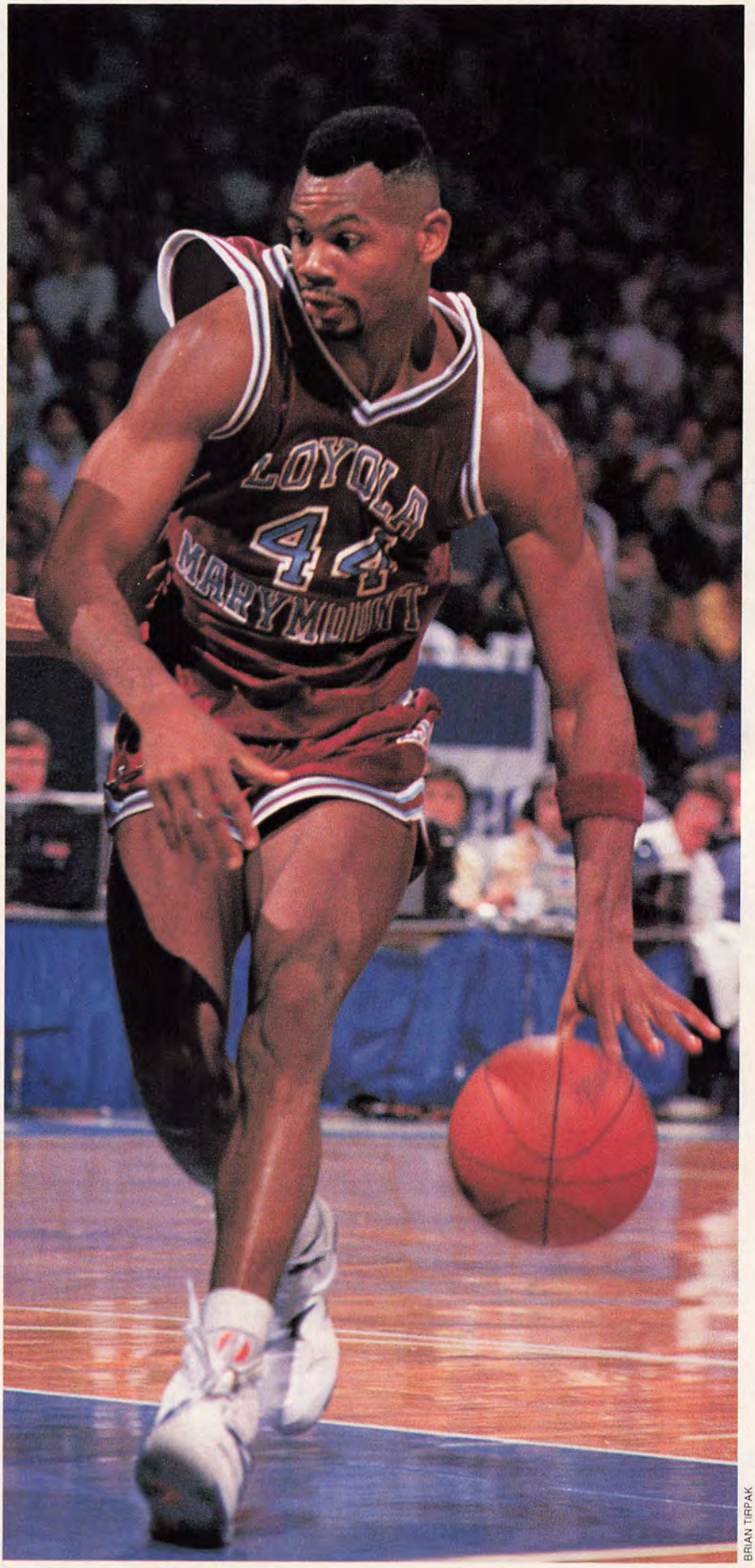

BRIAN TIRPAK

2

3

PHOTOS BY TODD ALLRED/ALLSPORT USA

After 10 years at the Wolfpack helm—the last two spent under considerable pressure to step down as coach—Jim Valvano **(1)** saw his reign at North Carolina State end when the school bought out his contract. Valvano had fought to keep his job amid allegations of point-shaving and reports that former players had accepted cash from boosters while attending the university. Only eight months earlier, Valvano had resigned as athletic director following an internal investigation of the N.C. State basketball program. Hardly down and out for long, Valvano last summer signed a three-year deal worth $900,000 to provide color commentary for ABC-TV ... the network that broke the story implicating players in the point-shaving scandal.

If Valvano's troubles had been the extent of any alleged wrongdoing in 1990, this wouldn't be college basketball. Illinois and Missouri both awaited their fates following lengthy NCAA probes of suspected recruiting violations. The focus of the inquiry at Illinois centered on assistant coach Jimmy Collins **(3, right, with Coach Lou Henson),** who was accused of offering cash and, in one case, a Chevy Blazer to potential Illini recruits. At Missouri, Coach Norm Stewart **(2)** made his first-ever appearance before the NCAA's infractions committee in his 23rd season with the Tigers.

It was April Fools' Day, but the news was too shocking to be mistaken for any joke. On the eve of the NCAA championship game, CBS-TV announced that Brent Musburger would be out of a job after broadcasting the tournament finale. Working one last time alongside Billy Packer **(4)**, Musburger signed off gracefully at the end of the telecast. "Folks, I've had the best seat in the house. Thanks for sharing it with me. I'll see you down the road." One month later, Musburger signed on with ABC.

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FOCUS ON SPORTS

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BRIAN TIRPAK

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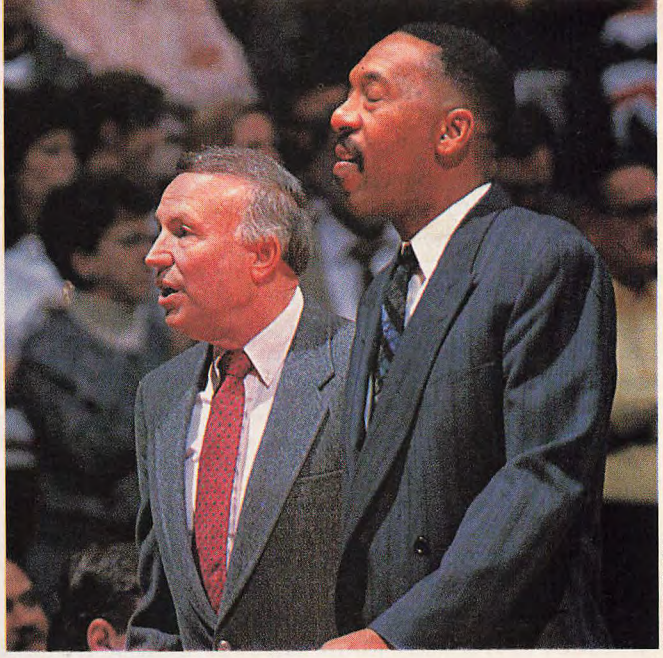

BRIAN SPURLOCK

4

JOHN McDONOUGH

Fresh on the scene, first-year standouts Shaquille O'Neal **(1)** and Kenny Anderson **(2)** took flight as major bombers of the 1990s. At Louisiana State, the 7-1 O'Neal posed a formidable inside presence while ranking among the Division I leaders in rebounds and blocked shots. Anderson was nothing short of dazzling at Georgia Tech, sparking the team to a school-best 28-7 record and its first-ever appearance in the Final Four. Teamed with Brian Oliver and Dennis Scott **(3)**, Anderson was the youngest of the three 20-plus point scorers who made up Tech's "Lethal Weapon 3." Scott, named The Sporting News' Player of the Year, posted the highest scoring average (27.7 points per game) in the Atlantic Coast Conference since David Thompson averaged 29.9 points in 1974-75. A junior last season, Scott bypassed his final year of eligibility to turn pro with the Orlando Magic.

1

ALLSPORT USA

2

SCOTT CUNNINGHAM

BRIAN SPURLOCK

Long before the college years, the message has been driven home: To learn, you must listen. Ever the scholar, Baylor's Michael Williams joined the Arkansas huddle (1) at the Southwest Conference Tournament.

A stranger to such dizzying heights, Connecticut nevertheless knew how to celebrate an improbable "Dream Season." Regarded as perennial also-rans in the Big East Conference, the Huskies wound up 31-6, advanced to the elite eight of the NCAA Tournament, won the Big East Tournament championship and shared the league's regular-season crown. As "Huskymania" ran rampant, UConn came within two seconds of a Final Four appearance, falling short when Duke hit a buzzer-beating shot for a 79-78 win in the East Regional final. Back in the Big East Tournament, freshman Toraino Walker (2) enjoyed cutting up during the championship celebration.

1

LOUIS DeLUCA

2

HOCKEY

1990

PAUL J. BERESWILL

They were supposed to fade into the National Hockey League pack after losing Paul Coffey, Andy Moog and Wayne Gretzky between November 1987 and August 1988. Last spring, however, the Edmonton Oilers won their fifth Stanley Cup in seven seasons, perhaps providing a glimpse of the future with a constellation of stars that featured a number of old hands and a promising nucleus of young talent. With youngsters Martin Gelinas, Geoff Smith and Bill Ranford joining such established leaders as Mark Messier (the Hart Trophy winner as the NHL Most Valuable Player), Glenn Anderson, Charlie Huddy and Kevin Lowe, the Oilers possessed the same up-and-down style that made them the most dangerous team of the 1980s. Rising above a second-place finish in the Smythe Division, the Oilers ousted Winnipeg, Los Angeles and Chicago in the postseason before outscoring Boston, 20-8, in a lopsided five-game victory in the Stanley Cup finals. While defenseman Randy Gregg **(previous page)** marked his fifth Cup with Edmonton, Ranford **(1)** enjoyed his first hands-on celebration. Acquired from the Bruins for Moog in March 1988, Ranford posted a 1.35 goals-against average in the finals and was named the playoff MVP.

1

PAUL J. BERESWILL

The answer is NYNEX
PaineWebber
AIRLINES.
OILERS

Order returned to the NHL last season. Oh, fisticuffs were in full swing, but the league's scoring race had a familiar look about it, what with Wayne Gretzky's name at the top of the chart. The story of the race wasn't so much that Number 99 **(1)** won the title for the eighth time in 10 seasons, but that Pittsburgh's Mario Lemieux, the champion the previous two years, was unable to claim it. Beset by chronic back problems from the start of the season, Lemieux nevertheless scored points in 46 straight games (five short of Gretzky's NHL record) until severe pain forced him to the sidelines **(3)** in mid-February for six weeks. He returned for the Penguins' season finale (and wound up fourth in the league with 123 points), but surgery in July failed to correct Lemieux's condition, forcing him to miss the start of the 1990-91 season.

The spirit of glasnost paved the way for their arrival, but the Soviet veterans who arrived last season on North American shores traversed a rocky road during their maiden NHL tour. Calgary's Sergei Makarov **(2)** was the lone Soviet who had a significant impact—not only on the ice, but on NHL legislation. After the 31-year-old Makarov tallied 86 points and walked away with the Calder Trophy as the league's top rookie, the NHL formally decided that rookie status would no longer be accorded anyone 26 or older, regardless of experience.

1

RICH PILLING/THE SPORTING NEWS

2

BRUCE BENNETT

3

BRUCE BENNETT

Harold Ballard **(1)** watched over the Toronto Maple Leafs almost to a fault. Outspoken and outrageous, the Leafs' longtime owner battled the league, the media, his family and the communists, often leaving his hockey team caught in the crossfire. Although Ballard was with the franchise for 11 of the team's 13 Stanley Cup titles, the Leafs never won a championship after he took over full control of the club in 1971. Last April, the character who once called NHL President John Ziegler a "know-nothing shrimp" died of heart problems at age 86.

Never mistaken for spendthrifts, the St. Louis Blues were a bottom-line operation with a league-low $3.5 million payroll during the 1989-90 season. Rather than lose Brett Hull **(3)** to free agency last summer, however, the Blues ushered in what many owners fear will be an era of freer spending by signing their All-Star right winger to a four-year contract worth nearly $7 million. It was a quantum leap for Hull, who earned $125,000 last season while scoring a league-high 72 goals, the most ever by a right winger in the NHL.

In most other sports, athletes who come forth willingly and admit to an alcohol or drug problem are usually placed in treatment programs. But when hockey's Grant Fuhr **(2)** confessed to using cocaine over a seven-year period, the NHL showed little mercy, suspending the Edmonton goaltender for the 1990-91 season. "Our objective is to have no players in the National Hockey League involved with illegal drugs," czar Ziegler said. "Our policy is to let everyone know right up front that if you are involved in illegal drugs, you will be suspended."

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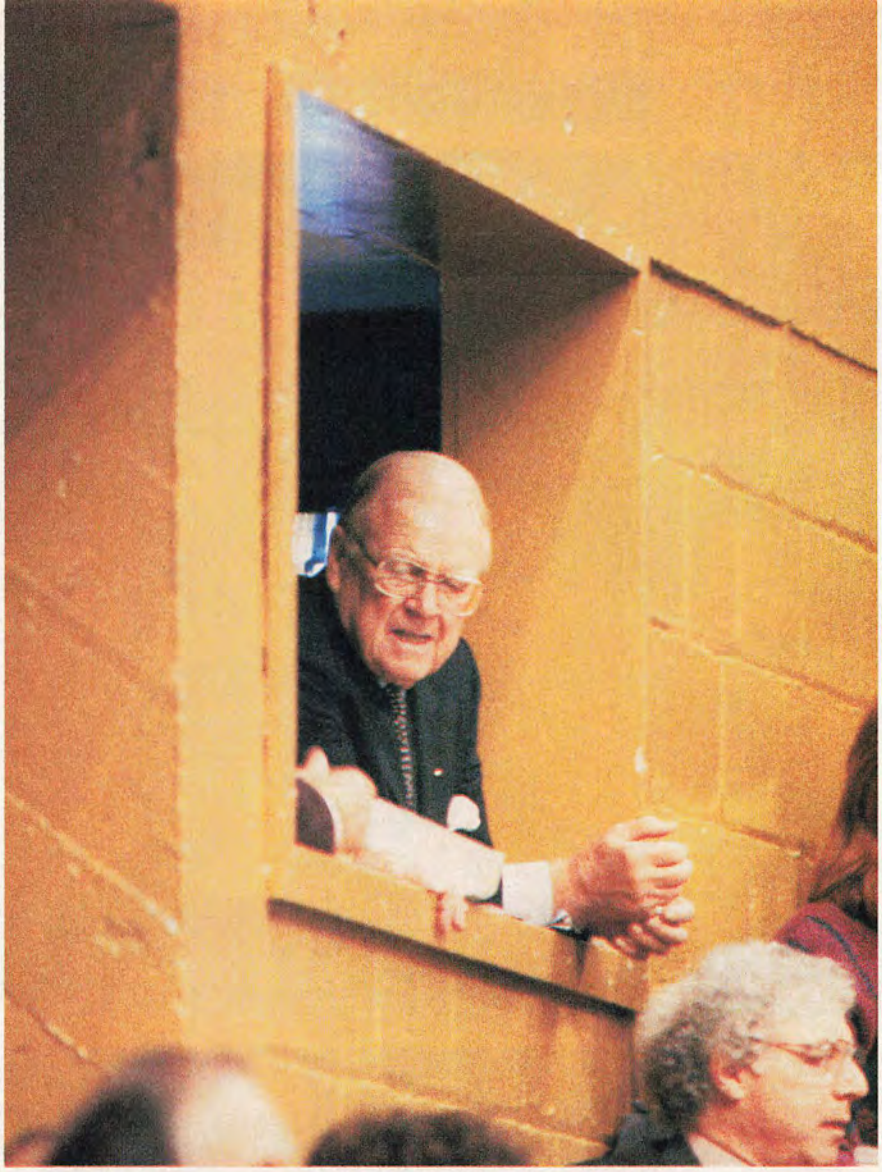

BRUCE BENNETT

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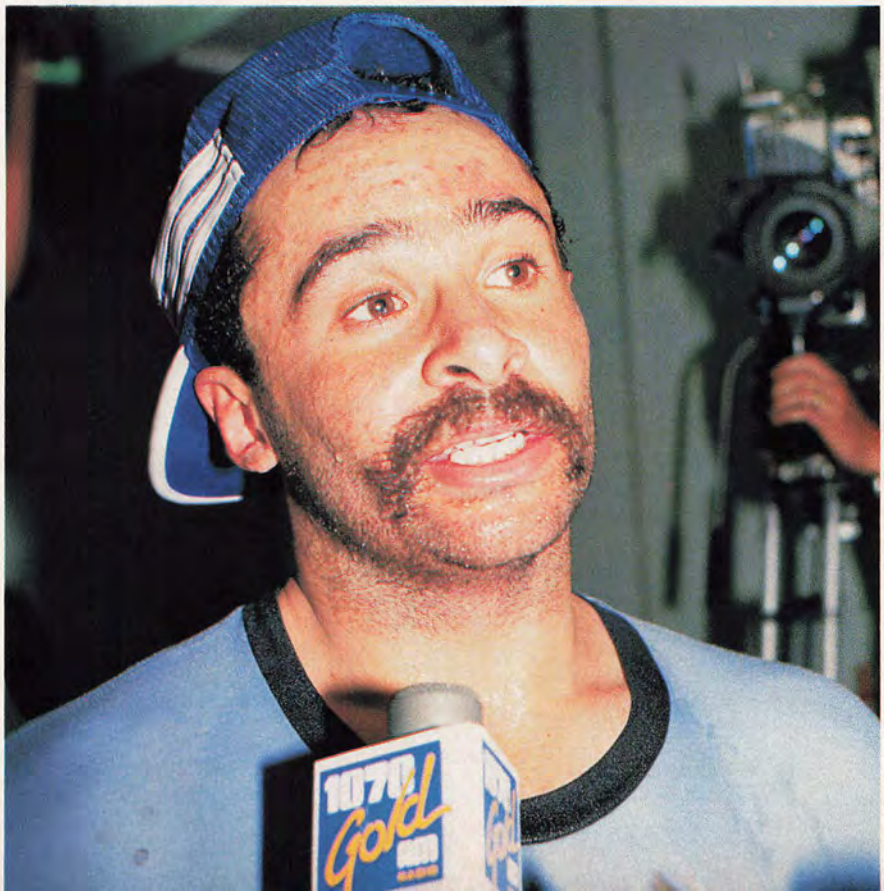

BRUCE BENNETT

3

In collegiate hockey, no one lined up stronger than Wisconsin **(1)** in 1990. The Badgers, sparked by four power-play goals, claimed their fifth NCAA national championship with a 7-3 title-game victory over Colgate. Michigan leads all Division I schools with seven titles, followed by Wisconsin, Denver and North Dakota, with five each.

If pro sports are grown men playing boys' games, the Chicago Blackhawks played the part of the latter to a T. On their way to winning a 1989-90 Norris Division title, the Hawks were vexed by a running feud between the neighborhood bully, Coach Mike Keenan, and the wiry, rebellious upstart, star center Denis Savard. Taking exception to Keenan's authoritarian coaching tactics, Savard often chose to balk rather than bend, consequently falling out of favor in Chicago. Their battles peaked at playoff time **(2)**, and Savard wound up traded to Montreal when Keenan added the team's general manager's duties after the season.

The climb to the top is seldom as swift as a fall from grace, but Jacques Demers **(3)** experienced both with equal suddenness as coach of the Detroit Red Wings. In 1986-87, Demers turned around a team that had won 17 games the previous year and guided it to the Stanley Cup semifinals. Two Norris Division titles followed, along with unprecedented back-to-back Jack Adams Awards as the league's top coach. How quickly they forget. Last season, after a string of well-publicized alcohol and drug arrests involving Red Wing players, Demers was blamed for losing control of his team. When Detroit failed to make the playoffs, Demers was dismissed.

1

2

RICH PILLING/THE SPORTING NEWS

PAUL J. BERESWILL

3

ANDREW D. BERNSTEIN

THEY SAID IT

Los Angeles winger **Tony Granato**, on scoring his 100th career point in the Kings' 1990-91 season opener: "I'm only 1,890-something behind Wayne Gretzky now."

Hartford Whalers rookie **Bobby Holik**, after making a shaky NHL debut: "My hands are like these sticks—made of wood."

Whalers center **Ray Ferraro**, describing Quebec Nordiques rookie goaltender John Tanner: "He's like a bowl of jello without the mold."

Harry Neale, commentator for a telecast of a St. Louis-Toronto playoff game, as the Blues' Paul Cavallini and the Maple Leafs' John Kordic collided: "The last time two things that big got together, Secretariat was born."

Kenny Rice, sports director at WTVQ-TV in Lexington, Ky., after Kentucky won the Southern Collegiate Hockey Association tournament: "Before the success of the UK hockey team, most Kentuckians regarded sipping bourbon as the only recreational activity involving ice."

Howie Rose, play-by-play man for the New York Rangers' games on the Madison Square Garden radio network, talking about the broadcast location for hockey announcers at the Meadowlands Arena, home of the New Jersey Devils: "When its 7:30 on the ice, it's 6:30 in the booth."

As a new decade unfolded, the NHL said goodbye to one of its most successful figures of the 1980s. After 10 seasons in Edmonton, Jari Kurri (2) opted to sign a two-year contract last summer with Italy's Milan Devils, leaving behind a legacy that often was overshadowed by longtime teammate Wayne Gretzky. The NHL's all-time leader with 92 playoff goals, Kurri scored more than 100 points six times with the Oilers and is one of two players (with Gretzky) to record 200 career points in the postseason.

The NHL's most successful coach over the last three seasons was no longer coaching after the defending Stanley Cup champion Calgary Flames were bounced from the opening round of the 1990 playoffs. In a three-season tenure, Terry Crisp (1) twice guided the Flames to the league's best overall record and won one Stanley Cup title, but a .669 winning percentage wasn't enough to prevent his firing last May. "When we won the Cup, I never heard anyone say, 'Crisp is a great coach,' " he said. "Now, when we lose, I take all the heat. I guess I don't win Cups, I just lose them."

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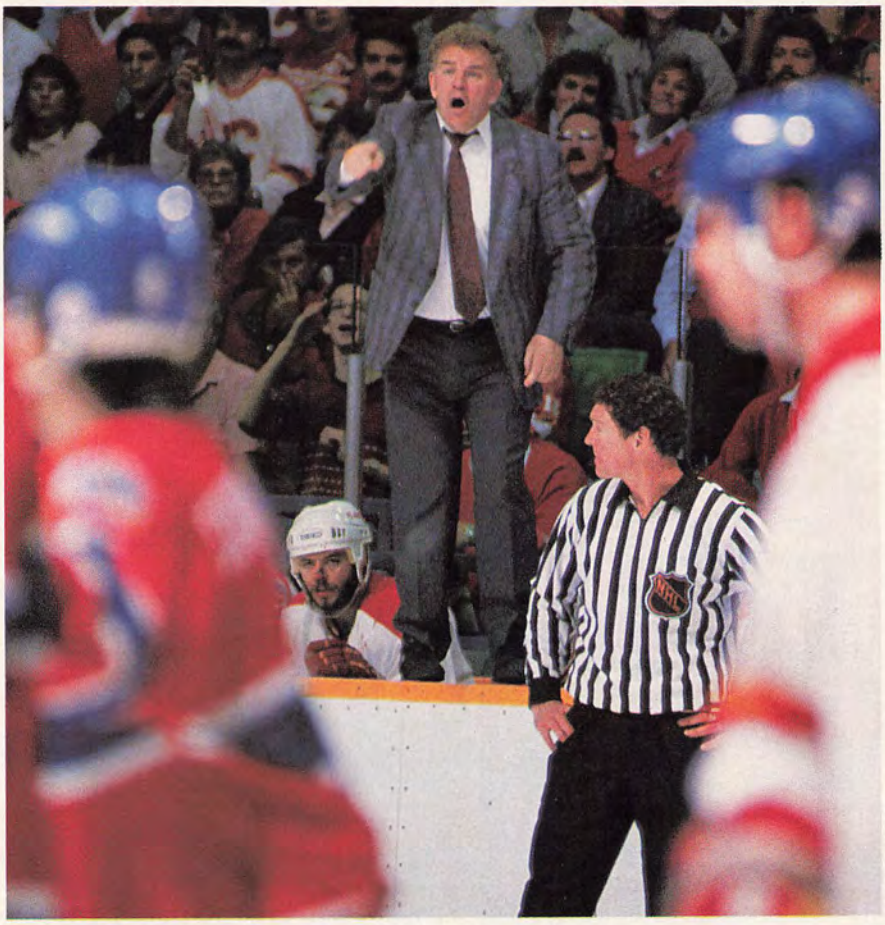

BRUCE BENNETT

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BRUCE BENNETT

GOLF

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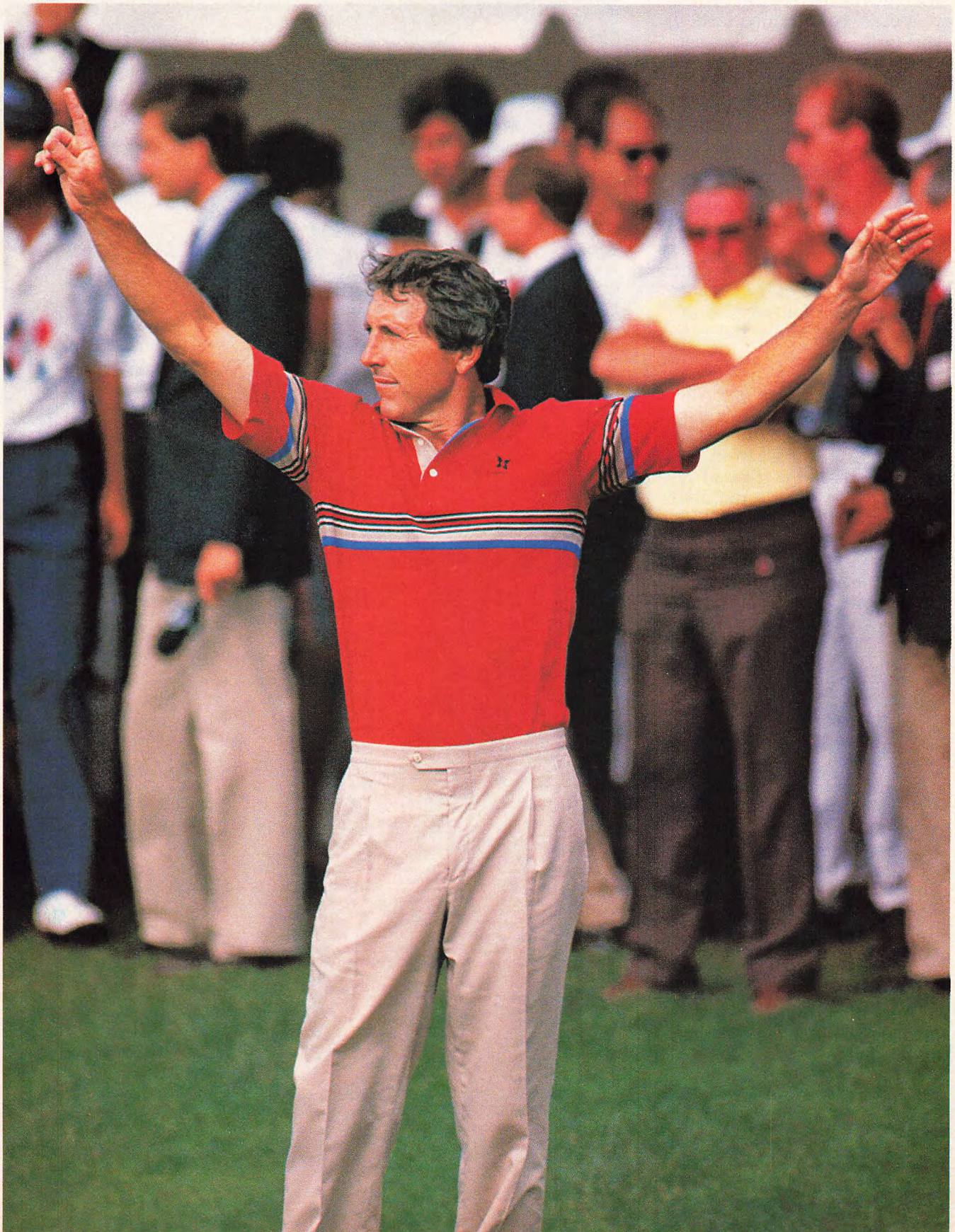

ROBERT WALKER

Hale Irwin hadn't won on the PGA Tour since 1985, but a man of 45 is wise enough to never lose sight of his dreams. Two weeks before hitting a shot at the U.S. Open, Irwin dreamed of winning the tournament he had conquered twice before, in 1974 and 1979. And two weeks later, he walked off the No. 3 course at Medinah Country Club near Chicago **(1)** as the oldest U.S. Open champion ever, sinking a 10-foot birdie putt on the first sudden-death playoff hole in the tournament's nearly 95-year history. Not quite through, Irwin raised his arms in victory six days later at the Buick Classic **(previous page)**, becoming the first player since Billy Casper in 1966 to win a tournament the week after winning the U.S. Open.

It was a black-and-white issue. The fact that it was an issue at all was particularly unsettling, especially since it had arisen in Birmingham, Ala., the scene of racial violence during the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. Two months before the 1990 PGA Championship was scheduled to go off at Birmingham's Shoal Creek Golf Club, the club's founder admitted in a newspaper interview that Shoal Creek did not accept black members. After sponsors pulled a reported $2 million in advertising from telecasts and a number of protests were planned, the club admitted an honorary black, a move described by some as "tokenism" at best. Long-term reforms have yet to be counted, but the controversy had vendors **(2)** banking on a short-term windfall. The golfing itself was almost anticlimactic. Wayne Grady **(3)**, a personable Australian who had finished second 29 times as a pro, scored a three-shot victory on a demanding course that proved one of the most difficult on the tour.

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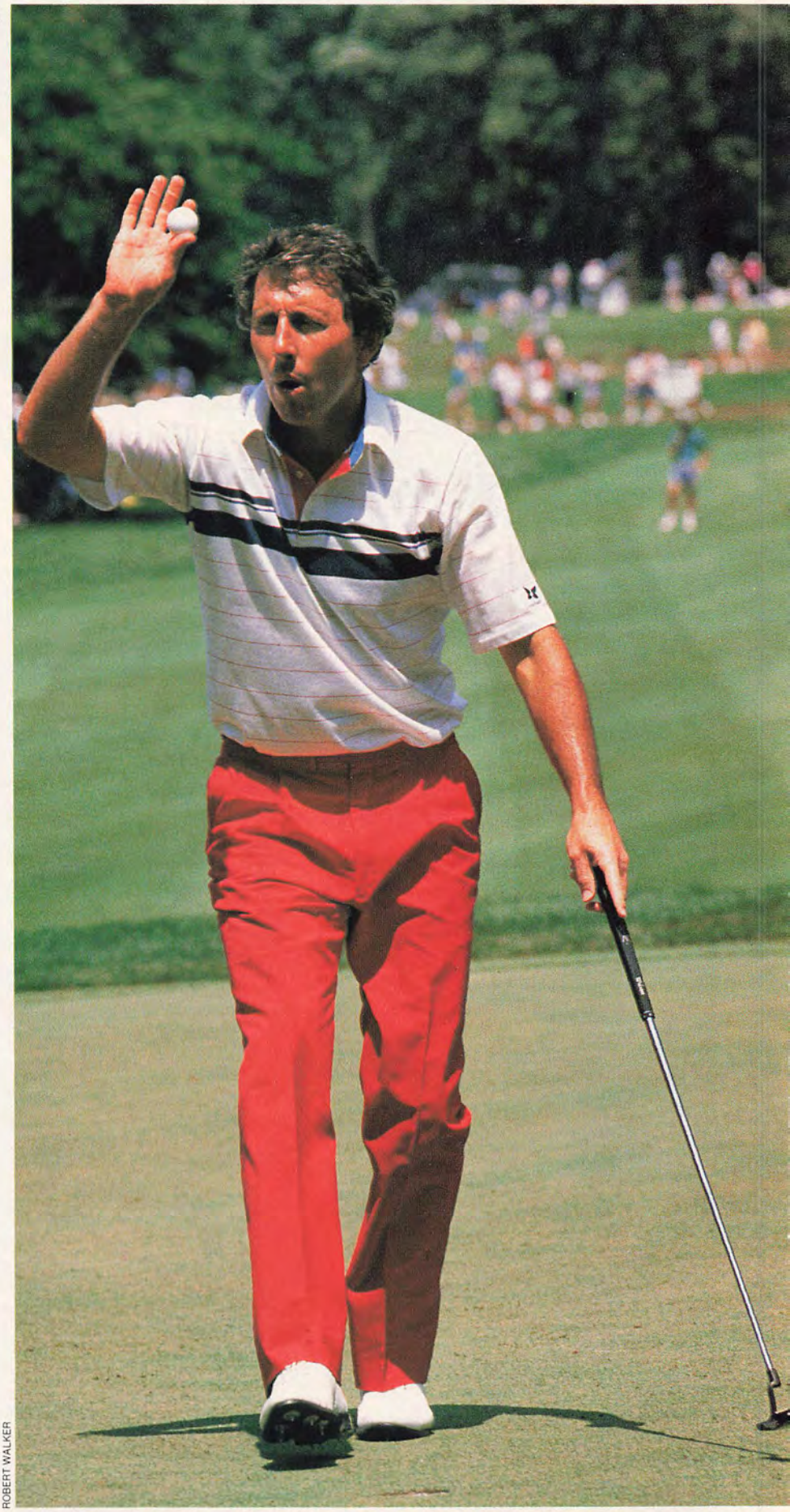


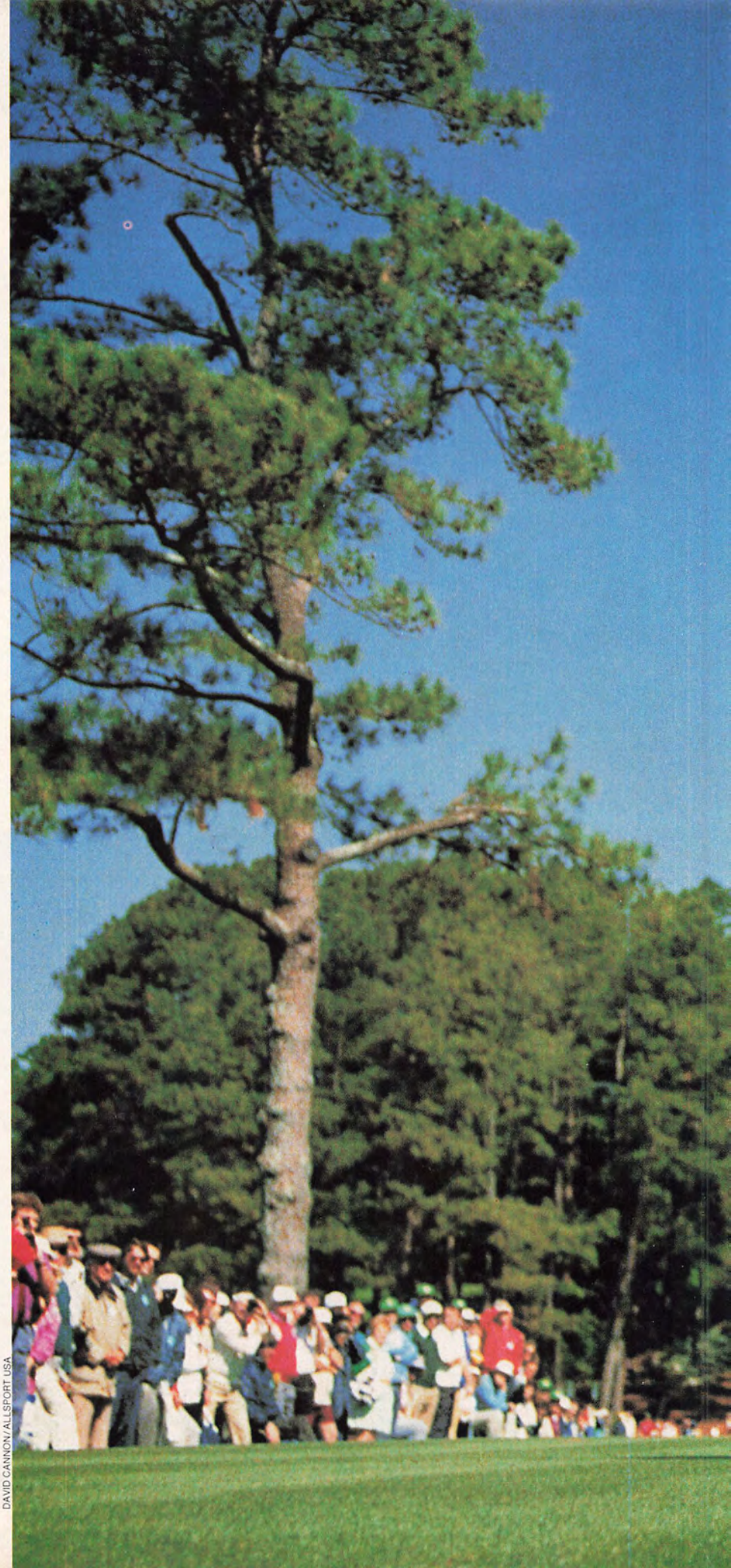
ROBERT WALKER

2

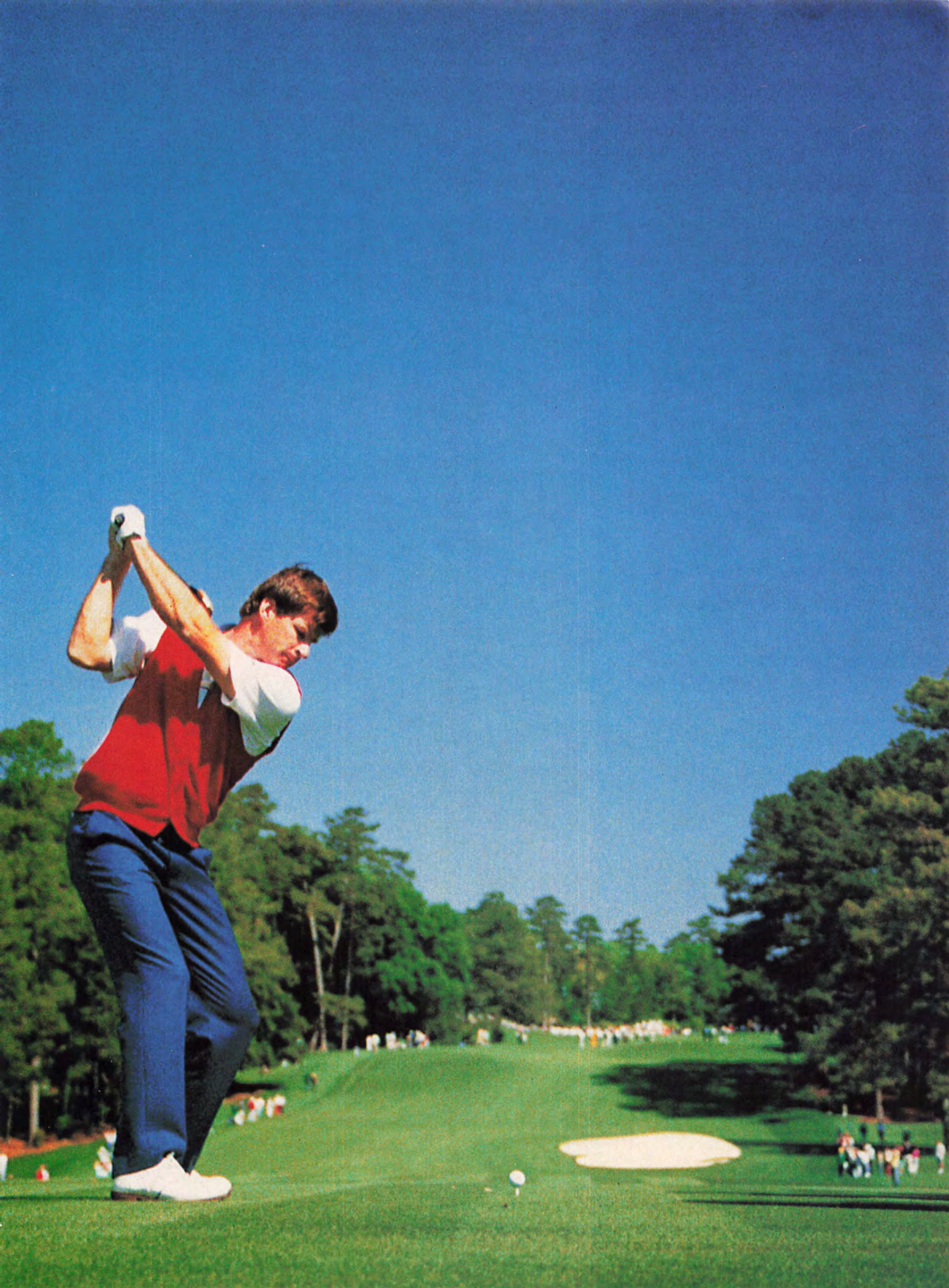
3

PHOTOS BY BRIAN TIRPAK

At Augusta National Golf Club, they call No. 8 "Yellow Jasmine," but spring was bursting out in blue and green as Nick Faldo prepared to go long on the picturesque 535-yard driving hole at the Masters. Faldo, the defending Masters champion, became only the second golfer (next to Jack Nicklaus) to win back-to-back Masters titles, charging from behind to force a sudden-death playoff that he won, once again, on the second playoff hole.



DAVID CANNON/ALLSPORT USA



His first start on the Senior PGA Tour was a day on the beach for Jack Nicklaus **(1)**. Winning his first title since the Masters in 1986, Nicklaus joined the game's over-50 set with a four-stroke victory at the Tradition at Desert Mountain tournament in Scottsdale, Ariz. Playing both regular and Senior PGA Tour events, the Golden Bear would renew his classic duels with former (and future) rival Lee Trevino, who had won three of his first four events on the 1990 Seniors tour. Trevino, the runner-up to Nicklaus at the Tradition, later wrapped up the U.S. Senior Open title **(2)** with a two-shot victory over the 'Olden Bear at Ridgewood (N.J.) Country Club.

Golf also welcomed two first-time winners into its gallery of champions in 1990. At Firestone Country Club in Akron, O., Spain's Jose-Maria Olazabal **(3)** coasted to victory in the World Series of Golf by 12 strokes, the largest victory margin in 15 years on the American tour. Robert Gamez **(4)** struck with a win in his professional debut at the Tucson Open.

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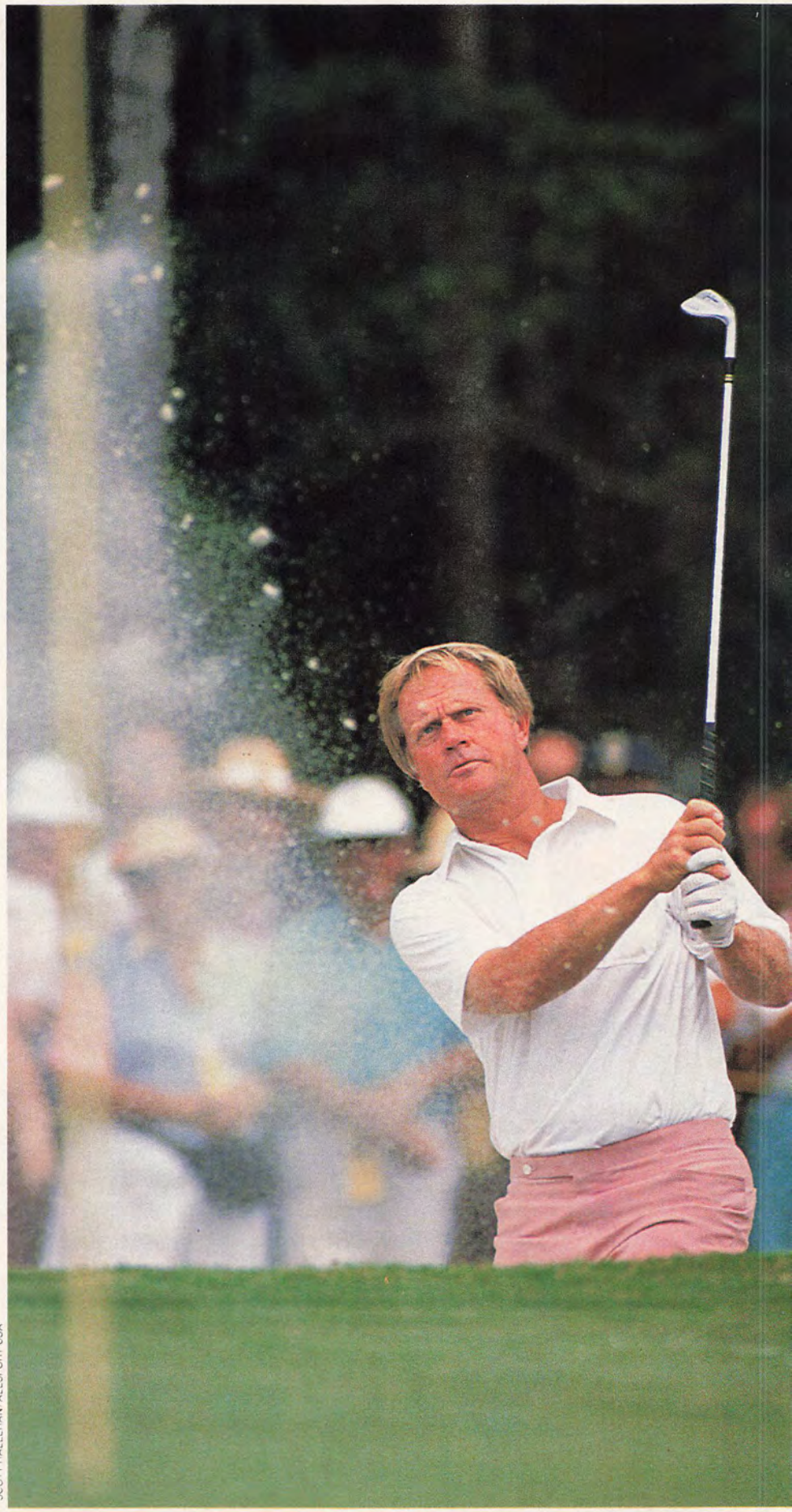

SCOTT HALLERAN, ALLSPORT USA

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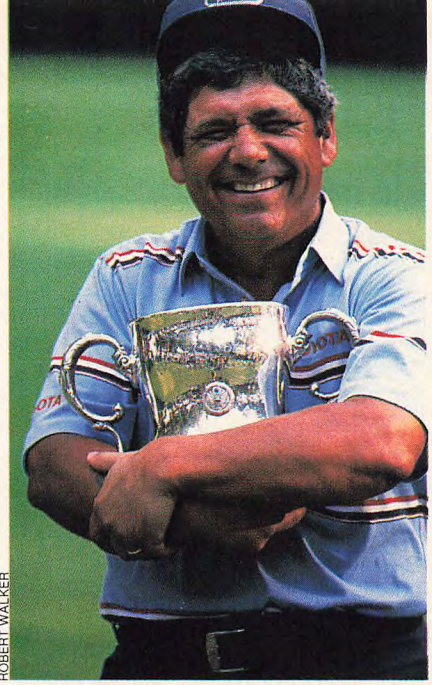

ROBERT WALKER

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RICH PILLING/THE SPORTING NEWS

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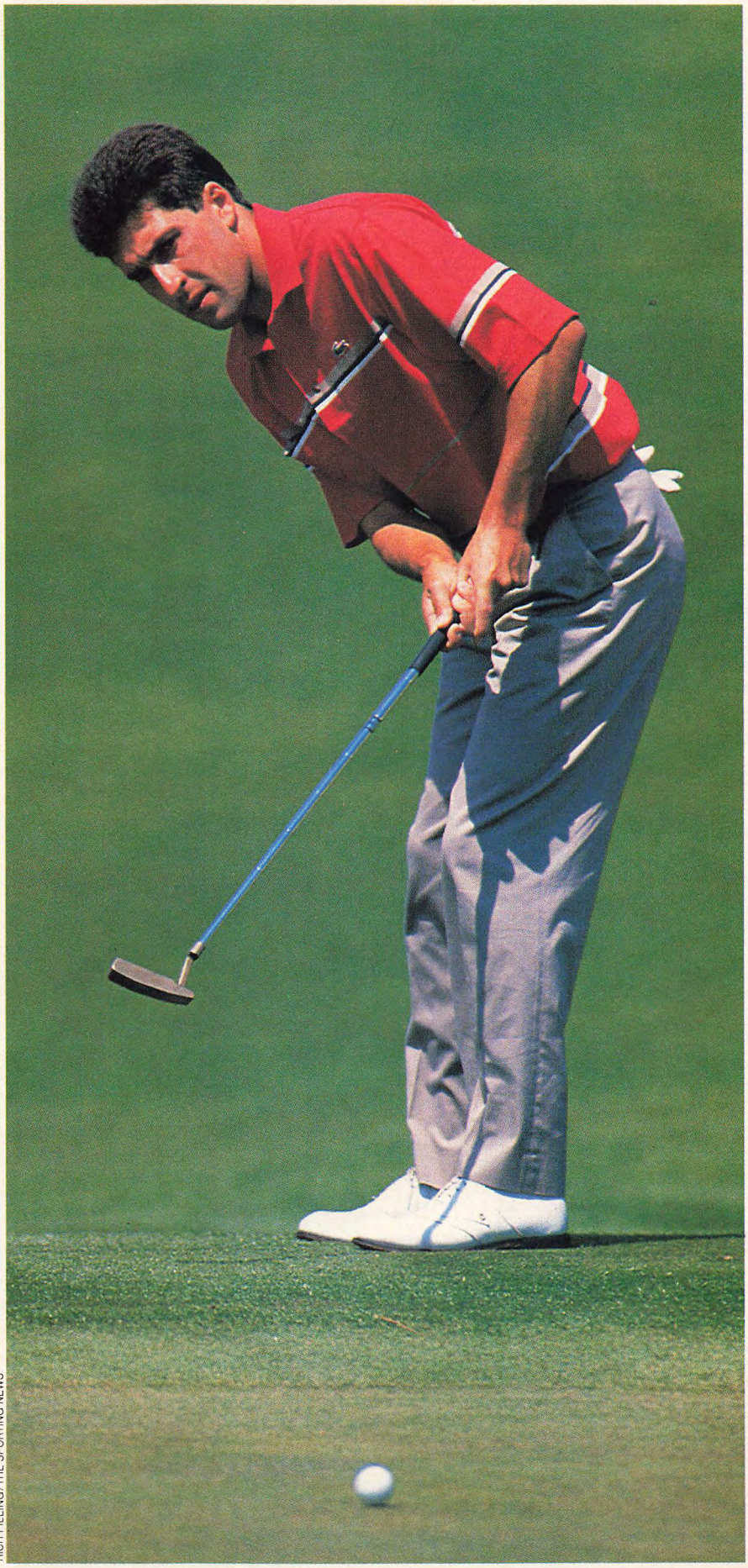


RICH PILLING/THE SPORTING NEWS

Years from now, the record will show that Betsy King won her second straight U.S. Women's Open by a single shot over Patty Sheehan. The scene at right is a more fitting microcosm of the cruel fate suffered by Sheehan, who looks for answers after missing a critical putt on the tournament's final hole. To call it a monumental collapse might be an understatement. Forced by rain delays to play 36 holes on the final day, Sheehan had been upbeat after her two-round score of 134 shattered the 36-hole record for the event. After pushing her lead to nine strokes early in the day, Sheehan saw her shot-making abruptly dry up while the persistent King steadily made up an 11-shot deficit. In the end, needing a birdie on the final hole to force a playoff with King, Sheehan left a desperation putt two feet short. King will be in position next year to become the first woman ever to win three straight U.S. Open titles.

BOB STRAUS

THEY SAID IT

Tim Simpson, complaining about the firm greens at Shoal Creek (Ala.) Golf Club during the first round of the PGA Championship: "Five was like a rock, 14 was a brick and 16 was granite. Put it this way: I don't think a shot put could dent them."

Peter Jacobsen, on what separates a pro golfer from a duffer: "When a pro hits it left to right, he calls it a fade. When an amateur hits it left to right, it's called a slice."

Jack Nicklaus, who used a 5-wood for the first time in his career during his victory in the Senior Tournament Players Championship: "I've now become a true senior."

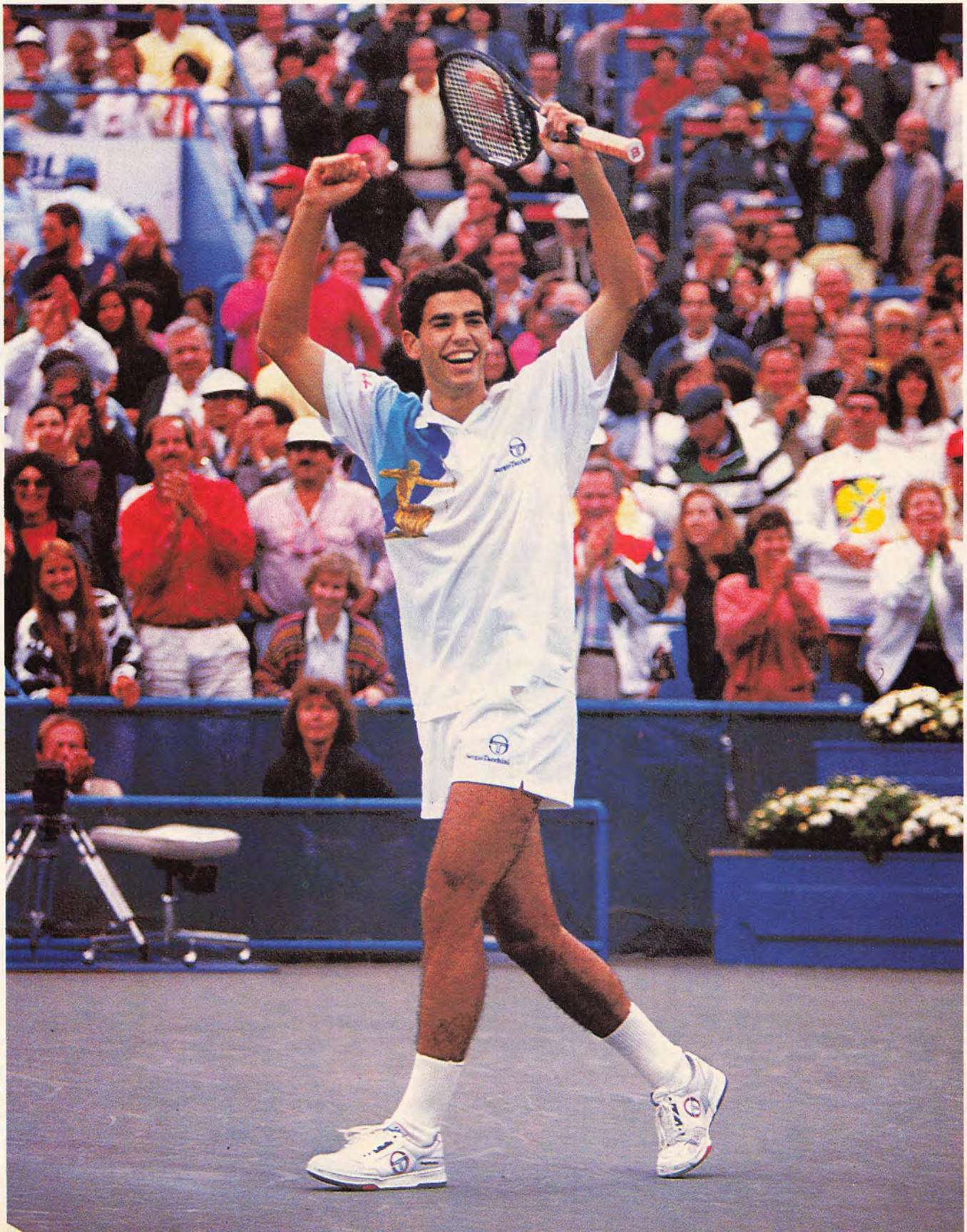
Ray Stewart, who has finished second twice in PGA Tour events: "My greatest accomplishment in golf to date is that I have forced Payne to put a 'P' in front of his name on the leader boards."

Tom Kite, asked if wearing glasses was much of a handicap while playing in the rain: "Not at all. They're a great benefit. Without them, I'm blind."

Australian **Ian Baker-Finch**, on the confusion his hyphenated name has caused, particularly in Texas, where he won the 1989 Southwestern Bell Colonial: "Everybody there has double names—Billy Bob and Tommy Joe and so on. I walk into a room and they're going, 'Hi there, Ian Baker, how you doin'?' "

TENNIS

1990



RICK STEWART / ALLSPORT USA

Californian Pete Sampras **(previous page)** used the U.S. Open as a forum to demonstrate it was possible to display both style and substance on the tennis court. Exhibiting the best of manners (in contrast to many modern-day competitors) and rare skills as well, the 19-year-old Sampras became the youngest men's titlist in U.S. Open history as he quietly and convincingly dispatched Andre Agassi, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2, in the first all-America men's final in 11 years. Explaining his "unusual" deportment, Sampras said he wanted to emulate the class shown by Rod Laver and other Australian pros of two decades ago.

Gabriela Sabatini **(2, facing camera)**, Steffi Graf **(2)** and Monica Seles **(3)** were among the big winners in women's tennis, but veteran Martina Navratilova **(1)** stole the limelight once more. While some experts doubted her ability to play at a championship level at age 33, Navratilova looked Father Time straight in the eye and made the old man blink. She won a record ninth Wimbledon singles crown, thwarting Zina Garrison's spirited bid in a 6-4, 6-1 triumph. Garrison had proved her mettle by knocking off Seles and Graf, the tournament's No. 3 and No. 1 seeds, respectively, en route to her match against Navratilova, whose victory was her 18th in Grand Slam events. Seles and Graf met in the French Open final, with the 16-year-old Seles scoring a 7-6 (8-6), 6-4 victory and becoming the youngest player ever to win the clay-court tournament. Earlier in the year, Seles, a native of Yugoslavia, had ended Graf's 66-match winning streak. Graf also fell in the U.S. Open final, to Argentina's Sabatini, but she captured the Australian Open championship for her lone Grand Slam triumph of the year. She had won all four of the major tournaments in 1988 and captured three of the events in 1989.

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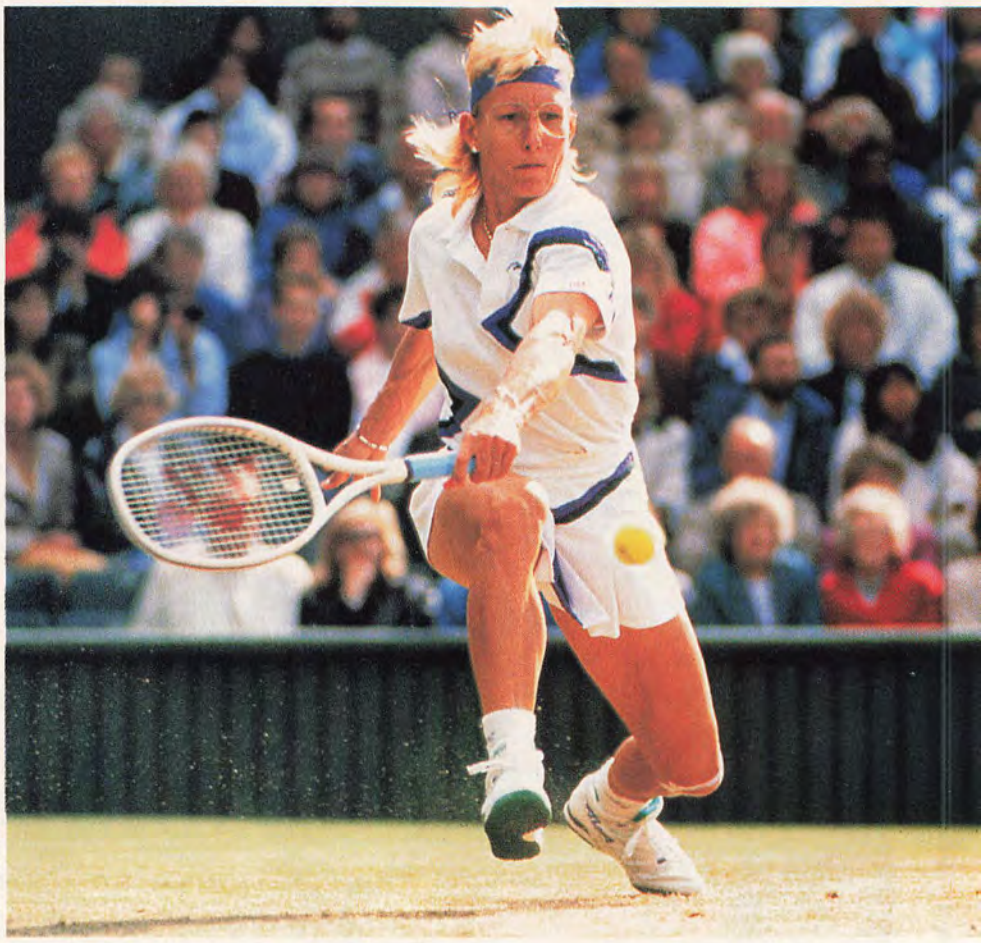

BOB MARTIN/ALLSPORT USA

2

BOB STRAUS

3

DAN SMITH/ALLSPORT USA

Old friends Jimmy Connors and Chris Evert **(1)**, having played a good game of tennis for many years, tried to talk one in 1990 as they took their wares to the broadcast booth. Connors, of course, had been known for some stunning vocal work in the past—in the form, that is, of outbursts directed at tennis officials. While he had developed something of a bad-boy image in his heyday as a player, not even Connors could match the antics of John McEnroe **(3)**, who outdid himself in the Australian Open. Obviously displeased with the day's calls—despite the fact he was leading in his fourth-round match—McEnroe threw his racket and then went into a full-fledged tantrum, during which he used "the most vile language" one leading tennis official said he had ever heard on the court. When all was said and done, McEnroe was done—he had become the first player ever kicked out of the Australian Open for misconduct in the event's 85-year history. While Connors and Evert talked and talked and McEnroe fumed and fumed, Andres Gomez **(2)** and Stefan Edberg **(4)** merely went out and played world-class tennis (most of the time, anyway). The 30-year-old Gomez won the French Open singles title, beating Andre Agassi in the final, while Edberg ruled at Wimbledon by bouncing Ivan Lendl in a semifinal match and then defeating Boris Becker for the championship. All did not go smoothly for Edberg, though. He had to default to Lendl in the final of the Australian Open because of a torn stomach muscle and, incredibly, he was a first-round loser in the U.S. Open.

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JOHN RUSSELL

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DAN SMITH/ALLSPORT USA

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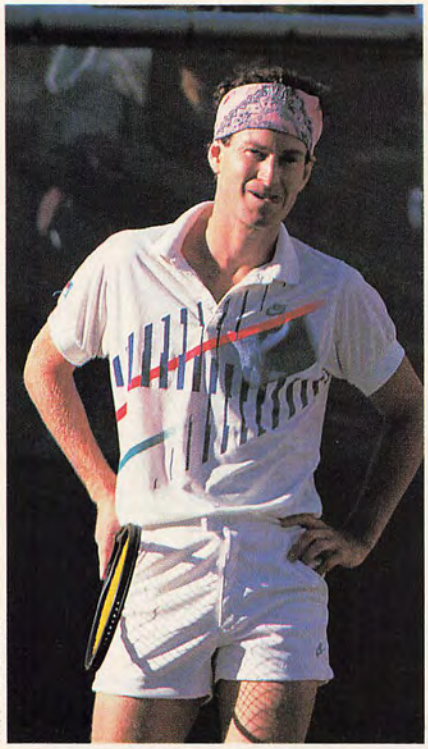

PAUL J. BERESWILL

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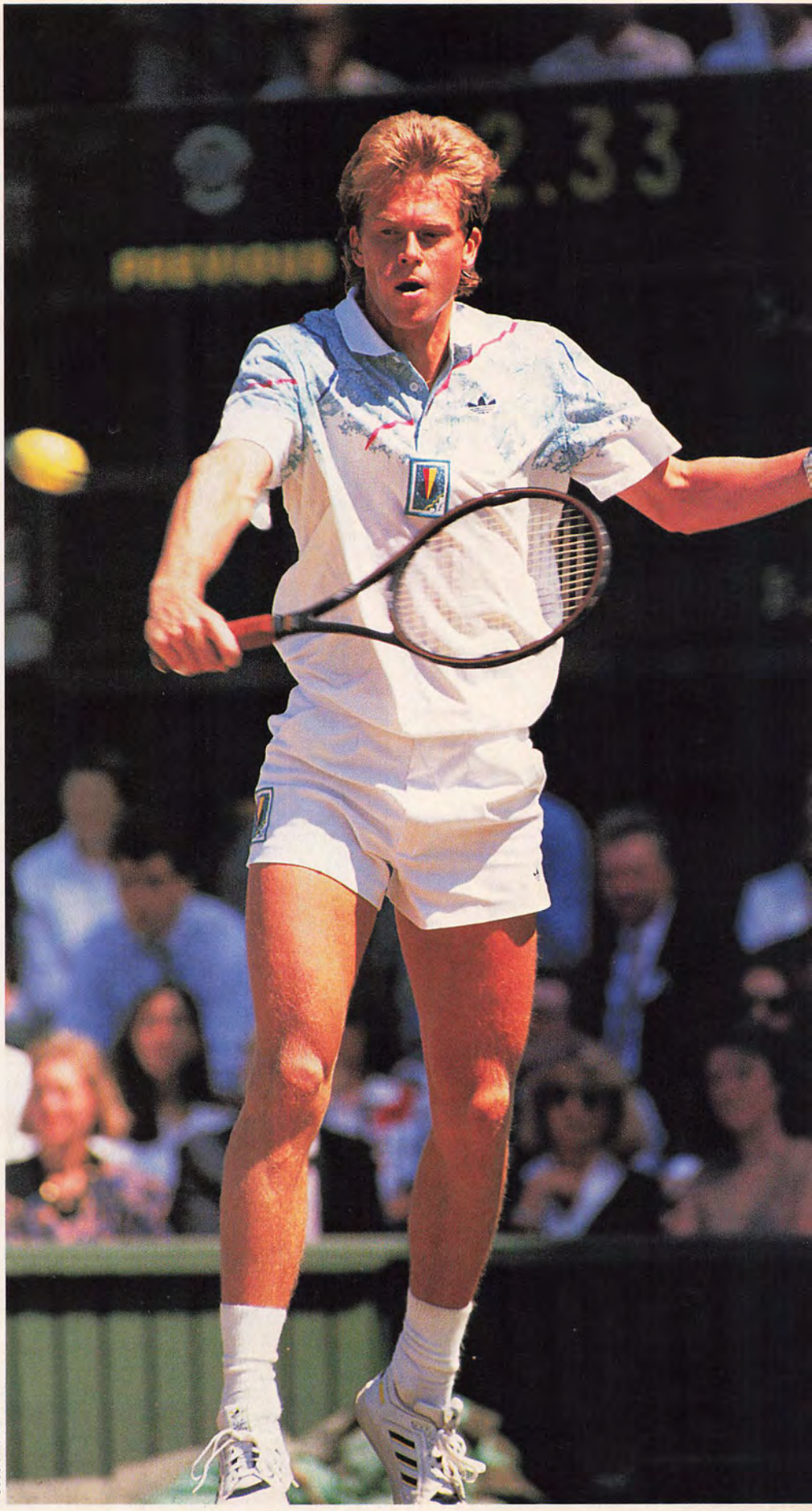
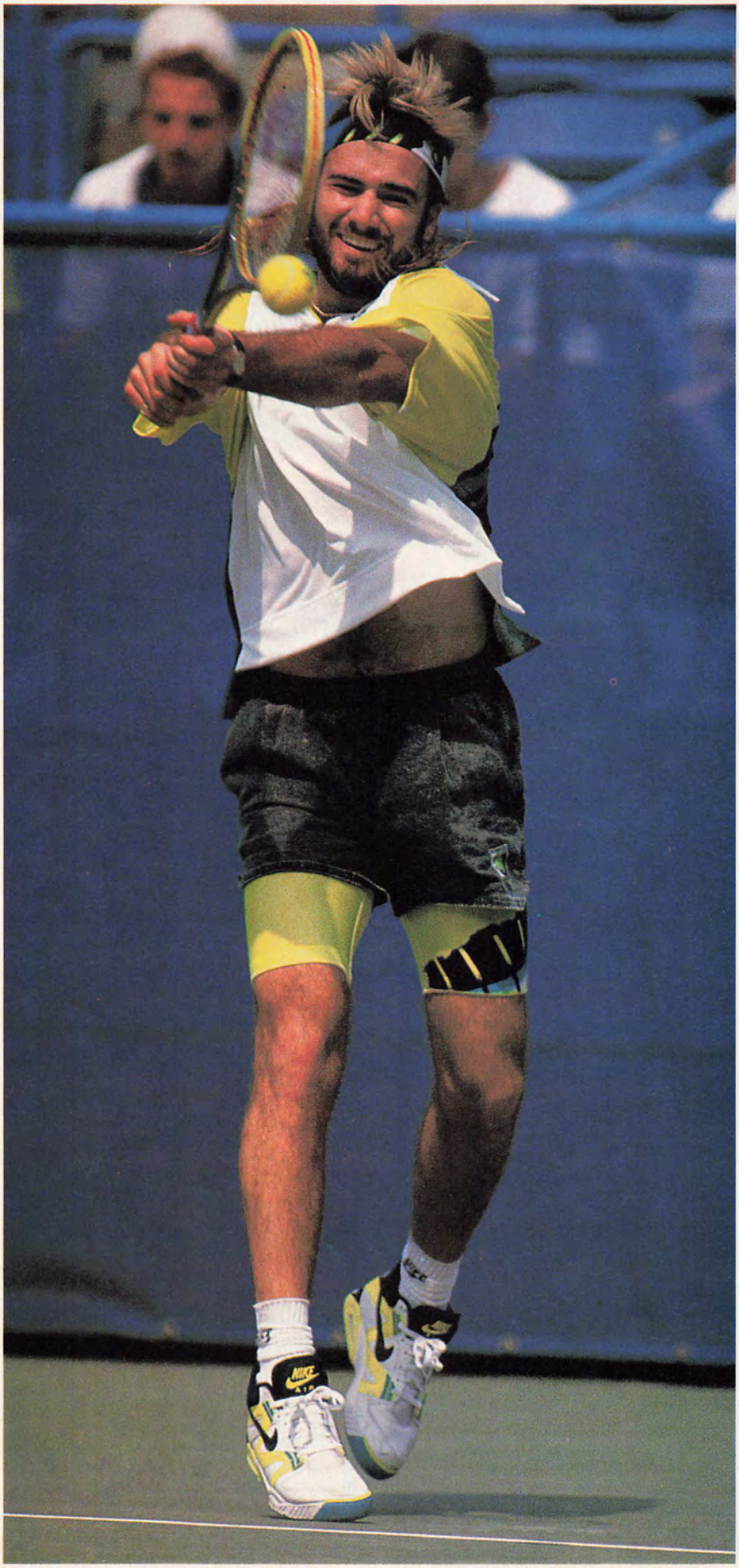


FOCUS ON SPORTS

Andre Agassi got attention not only because of his second-place finishes in the U.S. Open and French Open, but also because of his flashy attire. In the usually staid world of tennis fashion, the 20-year-old from Las Vegas added a dash of color to go along with his ever-improving game.



NAJAH FEANNY

AUTO RACING
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BOB STRAUS

Leave it to Domino's to sponsor the car that turned in the fastest time ever in the Indianapolis 500. The pizza company, which prides itself on its speedy deliveries, is among the sponsors for the 1990 Lola that 36-year-old Dutchman Arie Luyendyk **(previous page)** drove to his first Indy-car victory in 76 starts. Powered by a Chevy V-8 engine, Luyendyk's Lola **(1, foreground)** finished in 2 hours, 41 minutes, 18.404 seconds, an average speed of 185.981 mph. That speed also was a record for all 500-mile Indy-car races until Al Unser Jr. **(4)** broke it in August. Unser averaged 189.727 mph in winning the Marlboro 500 at Michigan International Speedway. It was one of six 1990 victories for Unser en route to the Championship Auto Racing Teams title—an honor he was informed of winning while sitting in a hospital room. Little Al, who became the third Unser to win an Indy-car championship (after father Al and uncle Bobby), suffered a mild concussion in a three-car crash in the Bosch Spark Plug Grand Prix at Pennsylvania International Raceway, but his 16th-place finish assured him of the CART title. Unser's victory in the Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach **(3)** for the third straight year also contributed to his championship season.

Jim Crawford was so excited about the Indy 500, he was bouncing off the walls—literally. The "Flying Scot" crashed twice during practice for the race, including one spectacular wreck in which he lost control of his Lola-Buick on the first turn. The car spun, hit the outer wall at full force, flew 15 feet into the air and landed upright **(2)**. The Lola-Buick disintegrated, but Crawford suffered only bruised knees. Ironically, Crawford was the last of 15 finishers in the 33-driver Indy 500 race.

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RICHARD DOLE

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BRIAN SPURLOCK

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KEN LEVINE/ALLSPORT USA

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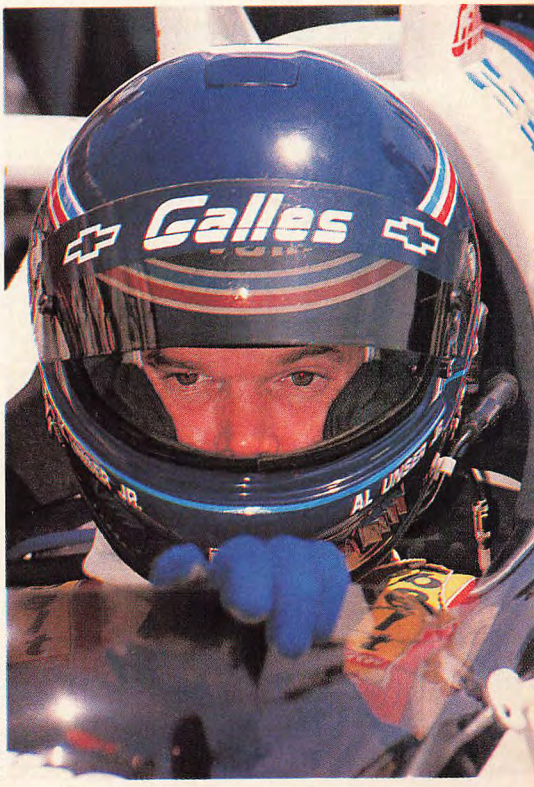

KEN LEVINE/ALLSPORT USA

Mark Martin's **(1, car No. 6)** and Dale Earnhardt's **(1)** neck-and-neck pursuit of the checkered flag at the Miller Genuine Draft 400 last June was symbolic of their yearlong race for the 1990 Winston Cup championship. Earnhardt **(2)** came out on top that day at Michigan International Speedway, but Martin **(3)** had a 49-point lead over Earnhardt with three races to go. A $1 million bonus awaited the winner of stock-car racing's top circuit.

For Kyle Petty **(4)**, the wait was worth it. The 29-year-old son of Richard Petty and grandson of Lee Petty finally won a Winston Cup pole position on his 277th try, and he parlayed that achievement into the richest winner's purse in stock-car racing history. Petty became the first driver in a span of 30 Winston Cup races to capture a race from the pole position when he won the Goodwrench 500 at North Carolina Motor Speedway. Because Unocal 76 sponsors a $7,600 bonus to any driver who wins both the pole and the race—and because the bonus carries over if no one accomplishes the feat—Petty added a $228,000 bonus to his winner's share of the $546,797 purse. His total earnings for the day: $294,450. It was Petty's first victory since 1987.

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BOB MONTGOMERY

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DAVID ALLIO

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DAVID ALLIO

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SCOTT CUNNINGHAM

HORSE RACING

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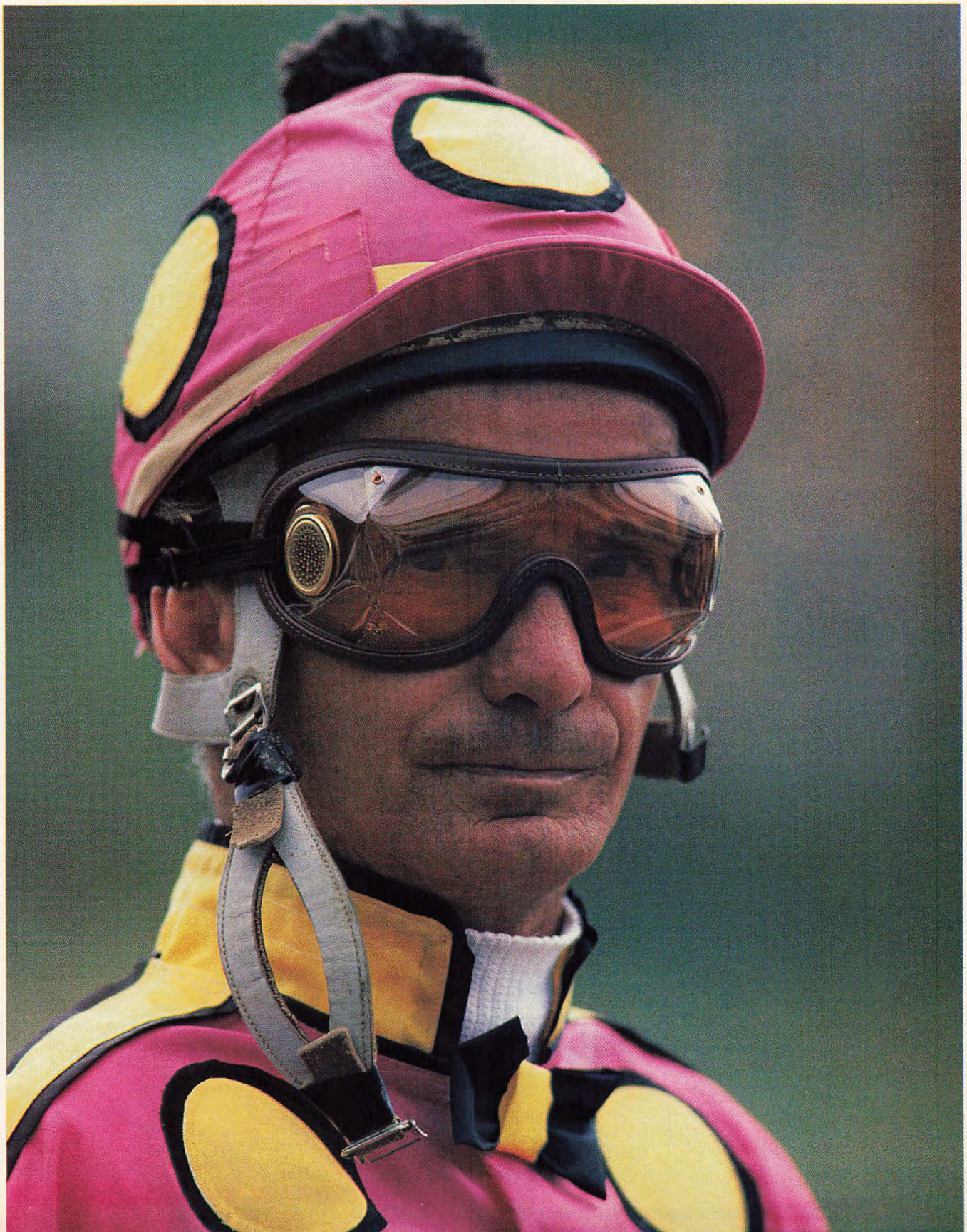

FOCUS ON SPORTS

After 40,350 starts and 8,833 victories, Bill Shoemaker **(previous page)** rode off into the sunset as the winningest jockey in history. Shoemaker, 58, called it a career after finishing fourth aboard Patchy Groundfog in the Legend's Last Ride, a Santa Anita race designed to mark the end of the jockey's 40-year career. Among Shoemaker's big winners were four mounts in the Kentucky Derby, five in the Belmont Stakes and two in the Preakness. Overall, Shoemaker directed his mounts to more than $123 million in winnings.

Unbridled enthusiasm was the order of the day at the Kentucky Derby. Ridden by Craig Perret, 10-1 shot Unbridled **(1)** stormed back from 11th place at the quarter-mile mark to win the Run for the Roses in a time of two minutes, two seconds. Unbridled, whose 92-year-old owner, Frances Genter of Minneapolis, cheered the horse's every step, claimed the victory by 3½ lengths over Summer Squall. The runner-up was ridden by Churchill Downs' favorite son, Pat Day, who had coaxed home more than 900 winners at the storied Louisville track but saw his Derby record dip to zero for eight. Finishing third was Pleasant Tap. Mister Frisky, who entered the race with a 16-0 record built largely against Puerto Rican competition believed to be inferior, wound up in eighth place, more than 20 lengths back.

1

KEN LEVINE / ALLSPORT USA

Secretariat (1), considered by many the greatest racehorse of them all, finally met something he couldn't outrun: laminitis, a painful and usually incurable inflammation of the hoof. Accordingly, Big Red was humanely destroyed at the age of 19. In 1973, the son of Bold Ruler proved that he ranked among the sport's all-time greats by becoming the ninth Triple Crown winner in history (through 1990, the total stood at 11). He captured the Kentucky Derby in the record time of 1:59 2/5 and galloped to an unbelievable 31-length triumph in the Belmont Stakes after finishing first in the Preakness Stakes.

Pat Day, who had ridden Unbridled to victory in the Florida Derby but switched to Summer Squall for the Triple Crown races, got revenge against the Kentucky Derby-winning Unbridled in the second leg of horse racing's "big three" events. The smallish Summer Squall (2), who stood only 15.3 hands and weighed just 950 pounds, kicked up quite a storm under Day's urging by charging through a gap on the inside and bolting to a 2¼-length victory in the Preakness Stakes. "Summer Squall, the little guy that he is, was a powerhouse," acknowledged Craig Perret, who was aboard runner-up Unbridled.

Irish-bred colt Go and Go (3) was long gone in the Belmont Stakes, sprinting to an 8¼-length victory in a field that included Kentucky Derby winner Unbridled but was minus Preakness champion Summer Squall. Go and Go's winning margin—over Thirty Six Red—was the 10th-largest in Belmont history. With horses unable to race on medication in accordance with New York law, Unbridled ran for the first time in eight months without his Lasix medication (used for a pulmonary bleeding problem). He wound up fourth. Summer Squall, also bothered by health problems, was held out of the Belmont because of the medication ban.

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FOCUS ON SPORTS

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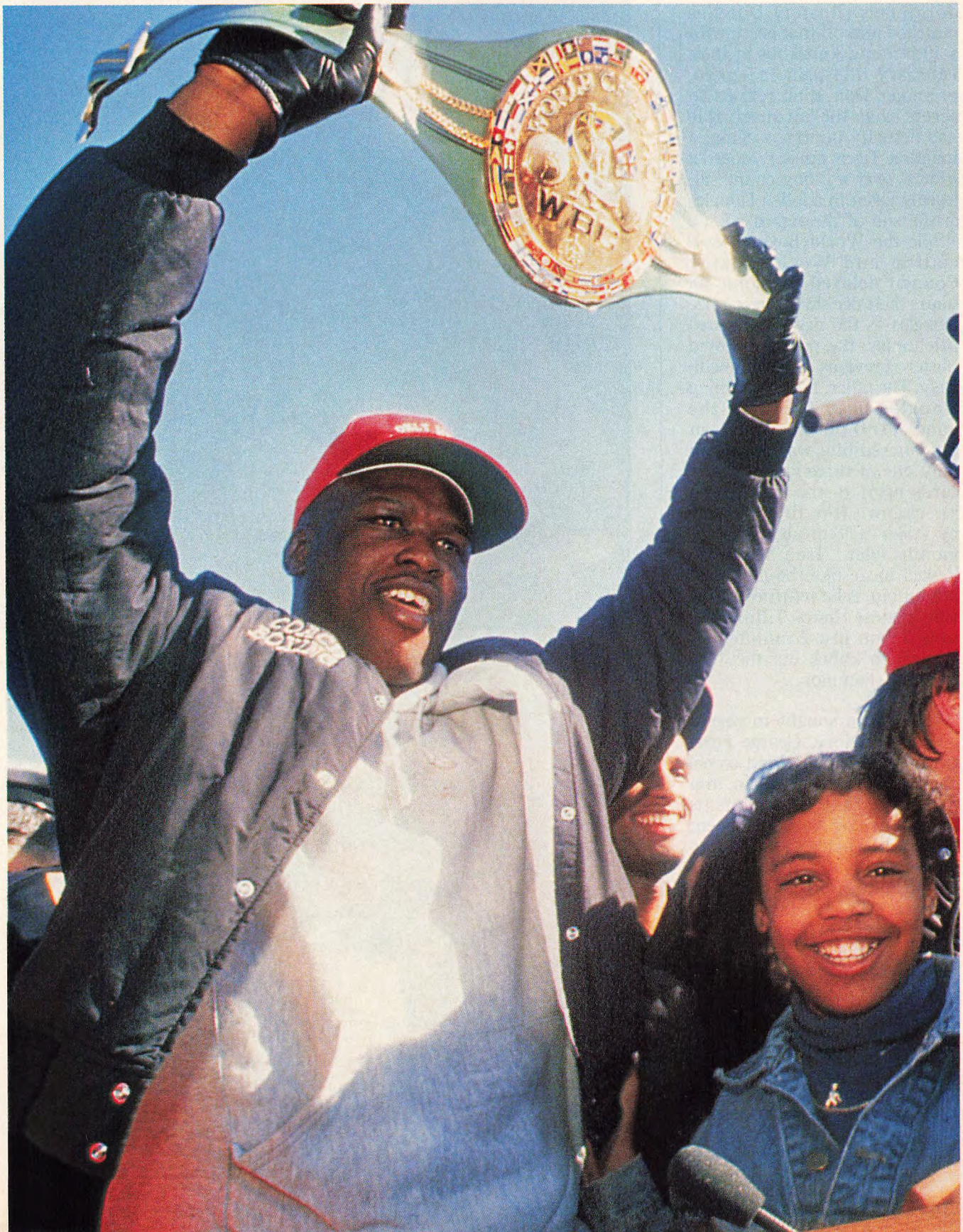
FOCUS ON SPORTS

3

DAN JOHNSON

BOXING

1990



MIKE WILLIAMS/ALLSPORT USA

Imagine a heavyweight champion so invincible that the very thought of his ever losing just didn't exist in the realm of possibility. That was the pedestal Mike Tyson had been placed upon, and when 42-to-1 underdog James (Buster) Douglas punched him off that perch with a 10th-round knockout in their February title fight in Tokyo, promoter Don King refused to accept that the inconceivable had actually occurred. King, a longtime Tyson adviser, lodged a protest over a "long count" allegedly given to a felled Douglas at the end of the eighth round. While the World Boxing Association and World Boxing Council delayed for some 48 hours their decision to recognize Douglas as the new undisputed titleholder, the people boosted Buster **(previous page)** immediately. The taller, longer-reaching Douglas beat Tyson to the punch **(4)** throughout the bout but, incredibly, was ahead on only one of three judges' scorecards prior to the 10th-round knockdown (the first suffered by Tyson in 38 pro bouts). Four months later, "Iron Mike" **(3)** looked more like the menacing bull of old as he returned to the ring against Henry Tillman. It took Tyson just 2 minutes, 47 seconds to knock out the 1984 Olympic champion.

While Tyson sought to regain his former glory, George Foreman continued the long comeback trail that has taken him past more than 20 opponents since returning from retirement in 1987. In what was supposed to be one of his stiffest challenges, Foreman knocked out a lumbering Gerry Cooney **(5)** less than five minutes into their fight.

Unbeaten junior-welterweight Julio Cesar Chavez smashed Meldrick Taylor with a stiff right **(2)** en route to his 69th straight victory. At the amateur level, flyweight Tim Austin **(1)** was one of four Americans to win gold medals at the Goodwill Games.

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TIM DeFRISCO/ALLSPORT USA

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FOCUS ON SPORTS

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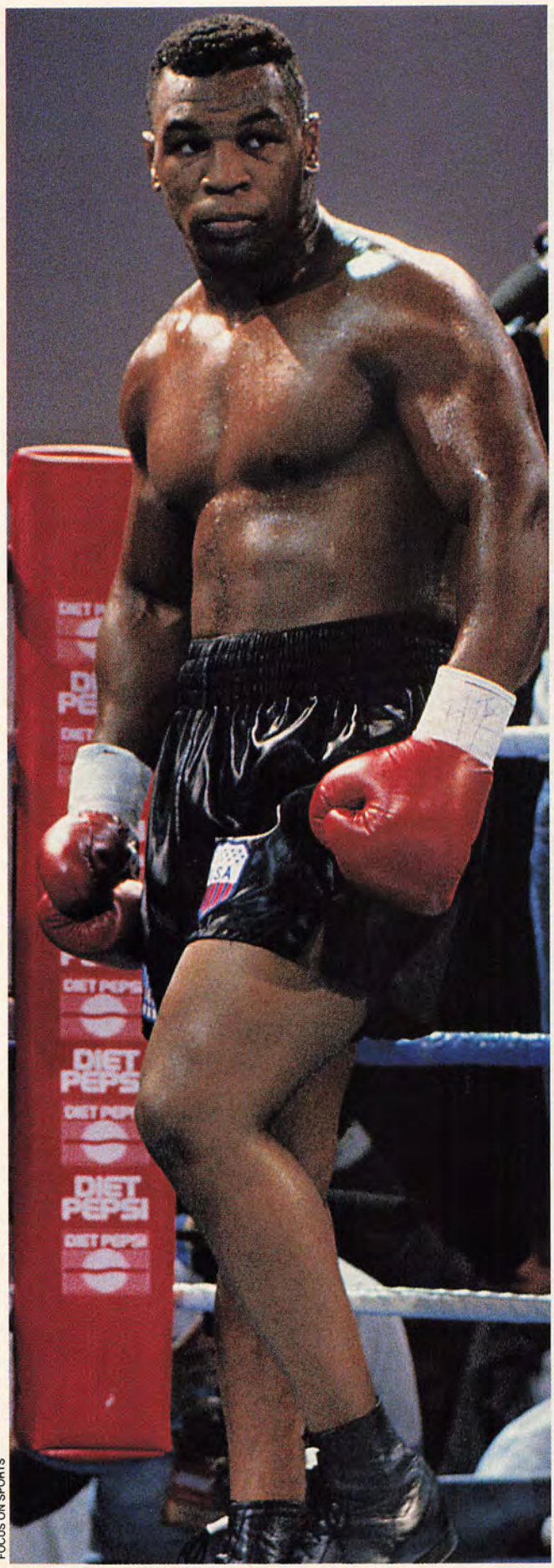


FOCUS ON SPORTS

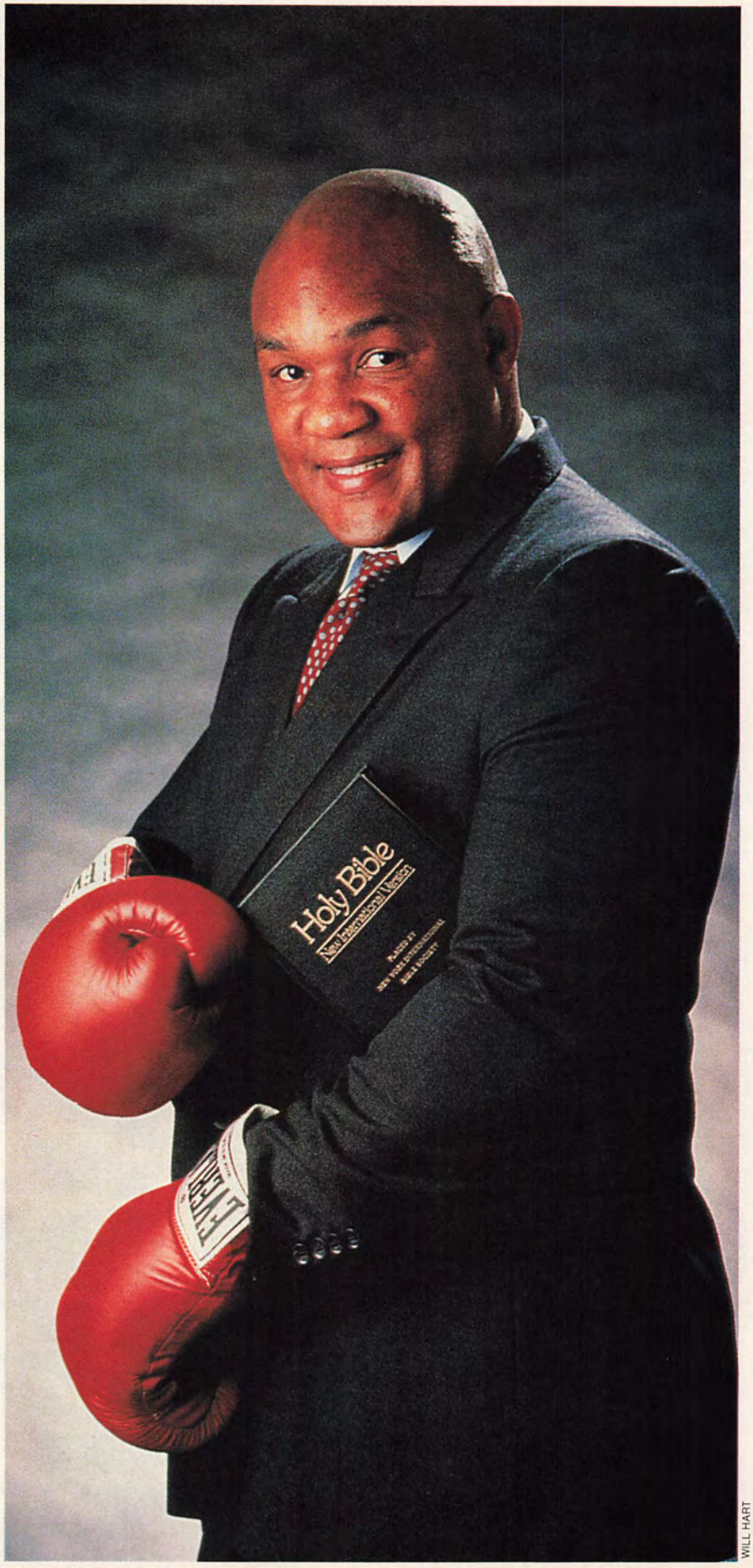
4

TONY TRIOLO/FOCUS ON SPORTS

5

ANTHONY NESTE/FOCUS ON SPORTS

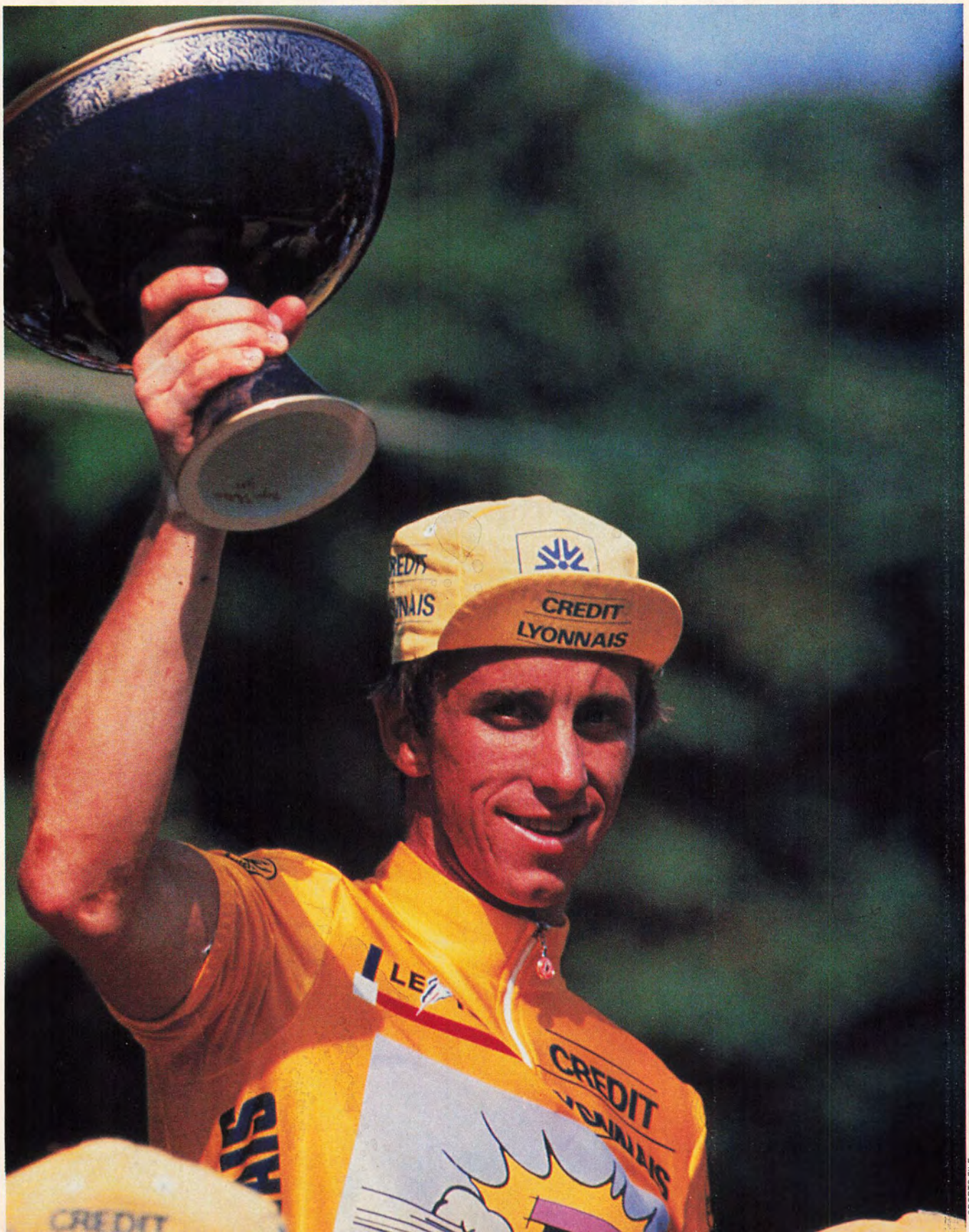
Since returning to the ring after a 10-year absence, the "Punching Preacher" has done unto others what nary an opponent has done against him. With a knockout punch that looms even larger than his waistline, Foreman has put himself in position for a title fight while scarcely raising a bead of sweat on his 270-pound frame. He has a succinct message for skeptics who say he's fought only ponderous opponents: "Be realistic; I'm back."



WILL HART

MISCELLANEOUS

1990



SPORTS FILE

Greg LeMond **(previous page)** is becoming a master of surprises and comebacks. In 1986 he became the first American to win bicycling's Tour de France, and in 1989 he captured his second Tour victory after being sidelined the previous two years because of injuries suffered in a hunting accident, shin surgery and an appendectomy. His 1990 triumph was no less amazing. A virus that had weakened him in the spring made him a question mark entering the 23-day race, and he was plagued along the way by a slow start, a flat tire and various injuries. But he took the lead on the event's next-to-last day and went on to finish the 2,120-mile race **(1)** more than two minutes ahead of runner-up Claudio Chiappucci of Italy.

It was the World Cup of penalty kicks, and West Germany defeated defending champion Argentina, 1-0, on just that to win its third World Cup soccer title. The 1990 tournament was a low-scoring affair in which many games, including both semifinal matches, were decided by penalty-kick shootouts. West Germany and Argentina advanced to the final after registering 4-3 victories over England and Italy, respectively. Both games had been 1-1 ties at the end of regulation, and the shootout results sparked riots in England, Argentina and Italy. West Germany's march to the championship included a 5-1, first-round victory over the United Arab Emirates in which Juergen Klinsmann **(2)** scored a goal. The United States made the 24-team World Cup field for the first time in 40 years but was eliminated in the first round after losses to Czechoslovakia, Italy and Austria.

The nation's best eight-man crew in 1990 hailed from Wisconsin **(3)**, which beat three-time defending champion Harvard to capture the national collegiate rowing championship at the Cincinnati Regatta. The Badgers also won the Intercollegiate Rowing Association title.

1

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DAVID CANNON/ALLSPORT USA

GRAHAM WATSON/SPORTS FILE

3

TONY TOMSIC

The race ended early for New Gold Dream and rider Peter Hickman **(1)**, who fell near the end of an amateur steeplechase event in March at the Clapper Challenge Cup in Plumpton, England.

U.S. sprinter Leroy Burrell **(2, left)** completed a perfect IAAF Mobil Grand Prix season in the 100-meter dash by beating world-record holder Carl Lewis **(2)** in a September meet in Athens. It was Burrell's second consecutive 100-meter victory over Lewis on the international track-and-field circuit.

1

SPORTS FILE

2

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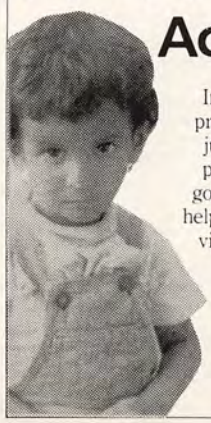

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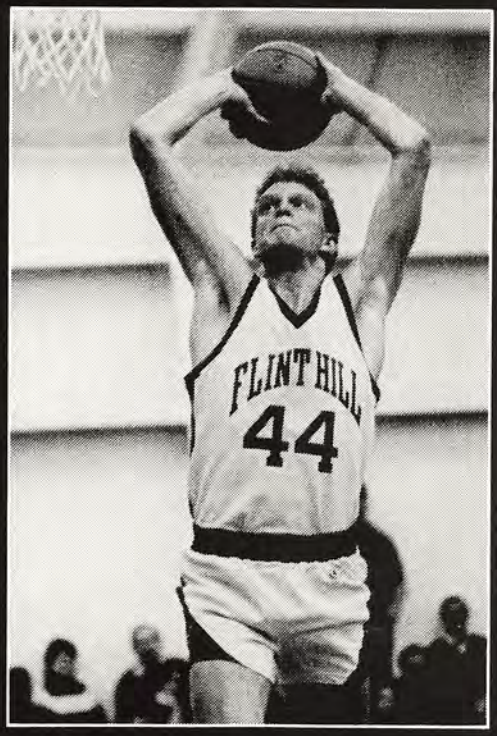

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